EAST BAY EXPRESS

OCTOBER 23-29, 2013 | [illegible]

What a WASTE

Oakland has launched a crackdown on illegal dumping, but the effort doesn't address the needs of more than half the city's residents, and it's not sustainable. By Sam Levin

PAGE 8 | **Tar Sands in the East Bay?** Fossil fuel companies deny that they're preparing to bring dirty tar sands oil from Canada to the Bay Area, but environmentalists say it's only a matter of time. **PAGE 18** | **Creating Their Own Image** A West Oakland artist tries to confront the tensions of gentrification in her neighborhood head-on — by giving "traditional" residents her camera. **PAGE 38** | **Rickey Vincent's Party Music** The KPFA DJ's new book chronicles how The Black Panther Party used funk to spread its revolutionary message.

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On the Cover *Photo by Stephen Loewinsohn.*

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IN THE BLACK

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EAST BAY EXPRESS

CITY OF OAKLAND

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Account Credentials for Business Should Not Be in the Founder's Name

What do you do if the founder of your business dies, taking all her passwords with her? Or when your IT manager tries to move back east and no one else knows how to get into PayPal and Twitter?

You need a way for another person in the company to take over responsibility for the business accounts. You also need to keep them reasonably secure and private. After all, tacking up all the passwords next to the copier isn't ideal for security.

The first tip is a legal one. Make the account in the company's name, not the owner or the IT manager's name. Many websites and services have a policy that only the owner, listed on the account, can access it. It can be difficult or impossible to prove that someone else should be allowed into the account, and will undoubtedly involve a lot of faxing.

The second tip is to set up all of your accounts from a dedicated business email address. The password for the email account should be known to more than one person. That way all the other business account passwords can be reset from this email address should the need arise.

If a key employee leaves the company under less than ideal circumstances, try to maintain a cordial relationship throughout the process. This will make you a former colleague and a liaison much more inclined to cooperate when you need the Foursquare password.

With equal attention to accessibility and security, and tackling the human element, you can handle the digital side of account inheritance smoothly.

By Sharon Campbell

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NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS
GREENWASHING THE WAR ON DRUGS

LETTERS

("Greenwashing the War on Drugs," Feature, 10/9)

Violence Arises From the Drug War

Over the decades of the drug war we have seen countless headlines reporting "drug-related" crimes of violence and drug-induced frenzy. What is not reported, and perhaps never even considered, is that the madness and violence being reported almost always arises not from a person too high to realize what they are doing, but rather from implementing the mechanisms of the drug war.

Dean Becker, Houston, Texas

Stop Environmental Destruction

I have long been an advocate of legalization of all drugs, not just marijuana, for reasons of civil liberties. You are quite correct that prohibition leads to all of the problems that you described, and many more, including imprisoning people who should not be imprisoned. However the federal government is not legalizing pot anytime soon, regardless of what the majority of people want. Too many rich and powerful people make too much money from pot being illegal, and until we get a far more representative government, from one dollar one vote to one person one vote, and proportional representation so that people are not afraid of "wasting" their votes by voting for people whose policies they actually support, pot will remain illegal. So we have to deal with reality as it is while trying to change it to what it should be.

The reality is that (mainly) Mexican gangs have been invading our national forests and other "undeveloped" (a better term would be "undestroyed") lands for ten to twenty years to grow pot, as evidenced by the two people identified in your article. While I would far prefer that pot were grown organically and sold and consumed legally, in our current situation of immoral illegalization the only way to stop this hideous destruction of our forests is by military/police intervention. Unfortunately, the people who run the military and police are far more concerned with making and maintaining imperialist wars for resources (mainly oil, now some gas, and soon to be water) and squelching dissent than they are protecting our environment, so we get no response from them.

I couldn't care less whether anyone, including Mexicans, grows pot in our national forests, but no one should be allowed to cut down trees or kill other plants, suck water out of ecosystems, or poison the earth and its inhabitants to do so. If we're not going to legalize pot, we should at least provide whatever military and police resources are necessary to stop the environmental destruction described in your article.

And by the way, all of these pot grows use diesel powered generators that leak diesel fuel into the ground and watersheds, so the problem is even worse than you described.

Jeff Hoffman, Berkeley

(Re "Crime, Violent Crime Is Down in Oakland," Seven Days, 10/9)

Potentially Lethal Robberies

While I do acknowledge that crime rates might be down overall in Oakland, that fact does not allay my fears for my personal safety. My lower Rockridge neighborhood gets at least one armed robbery per day, sometimes more. Having a gun pointed in your face is not the same as having your smartphone grabbed when you're not paying attention, or having your house burglarized when you're not home. Robberies at gunpoint are potentially lethal. My neighbor was pistol-whipped when she wouldn't give up her purse easily to thugs who followed her home from BART. My husband was held up at gunpoint right across from our house and he missed the casual carpool robbery by a matter of seconds. I used to think that the only people getting held up were those stupid enough to walk down the street with devices and headphones in full view. But that is no longer true. Robbers now point a gun at anyone walking alone, or even in groups, because the odds they are carrying smartphones are very high.

Some people advise leaving your smartphone at home when you go out on foot. But for those of us who moved to this area because it is so walkable (at least until recently) and who are car-free by choice for environmental reasons, leaving our devices at home is not a workable option. And it doesn't even solve the main problem. I'm not worried about my "smartphone and other electronics being stolen." I'm worried about having a gun pointed at my head and possibly being harmed physically. Sure, I think it's important for us to know the average crime rates in the city, but I would appreciate it if the tone of these articles (and this is not the first) did not trivialize the justified fears of people who live in areas where robberies at gunpoint are actually more likely to occur.

Beth Terry, Oakland

Public Perception Needs Balancing

Thanks for giving us information on the recent Chamber of Commerce poll, which helps us view it with skepticism. Knowing that the Chamber of Commerce, which often has a conservative agenda, sponsored the poll, I was skeptical when I read about the poll at first, and now that I know that the group of respondents did not represent a cross-section of Oakland residents age-wise and racially, I feel disinclined to take the poll seriously. Furthermore, residents' perceptions of criminal activity, as much as they should concern us, should be balanced by law enforcement's corrections of any public misperceptions of criminal activity. Unfortunately, our news media (the *Express* excepted) tend to fall down on the latter crucial part of the story.

Ruby MacDonald, El Cerrito

Thieves Have It Good

So many of us think the city is on the wrong track because every day we hear about at least one, if not two or more of our neighbors, coworkers, and friends being mugged, their homes being burglarized, or their property being stolen. This may not always be violent crime, though oftentimes brute force and pistol-whipping occurs, but it happens daily and isn't something anyone should normalize. Plus, the police response time to these crimes is slow, if it comes at all. That's why I think the city has a long way to go before thinking it's got it under control. The thieves know they've got it good.

Rene Dudley, Oakland

Quest for Safety Leads to Paranoia

With regard to popular perceptions of crime and how they conflict with reality, one area that I think is unexplored is the impact of social media and email lists. I am on several lists in which people will write in about every crime (reported or overheard) and even the most mundane activity that they perceive as threatening, in many circumstances because the folks involved happen to young, male, and/or of color, primarily young, African American males. This race to the bottom to post online whenever someone hears about a robbery, burglary, or other activity deemed "suspicious" greatly contributes to the perception that we are under attack by criminals here in Oakland.

In past years, when we didn't have lists and online social networks, unless a crime was heinous enough to make the newspaper or TV, the only way people heard about nefarious activity was through happenstance, by talking to a neighbor or friend who heard something from someone. This was true at times when crime was truly worse — far worse than it is today. Now we can easily read about someone getting their house broken into across town, and for many folks on the lists who are older, primarily white homeowners, they immediately internalize it as the city gone amok.

I am not excusing criminal behavior, denying crime rates, nor am I saying that I agree with the way the current leadership at City Hall is steering this great city. I am saying that in many instances people's quest for safety and information has led us to the brink of paranoia and mistrust. In order to find sustainable and systemic solutions for the problems of our city, we need to take a step back and find out what the root causes are, and how each one of us can contribute to making a more just, equitable, and safe city for all of us.

Joel Tena, Oakland

We Need More Police

Our leaders need to be replaced. Oakland has so much potential to be a place that attracts new business like technology, retail, etc. Crime is the number-one thing holding Oakland back. The bad guys just switched to gun-in-the-face give-me-your-stuff mentality. Who knows what the flavor will be next year? We need 800-plus police. How about an article that lays out how a proposed tax could pass and increase police right away? Measure Y is in the rearview mirror. Help us folks in Oakland dig out of this mess.

Joseph Merranan, Oakland

Unreliable Crime Data

The points about perceptions of crime rates and actual rates need further context. It is most important to understand that criminologists like Frank Zimring at UC Berkeley say that general crime numbers are notoriously unreliable for a number of reasons, including poor data collection and analysis and unreliable reporting. Oaklanders know that our short staffed police department does not and cannot respond to more than a small number of the most violent incidents, so citizens often don't bother to make reports. We also need to keep in mind that Oakland's computer based resources for data collection and management are absolutely not the best.

Second, the reasons behind crime are very complex and rates of commission vary greatly from year to year for unknown reasons. Thus reliable trend analysis must be longer-term — say over three to five years — rather than year-to-year. As they say in the data biz, garbage in, garbage out. Year-to-year data is not meaningful.

The most reliable crime data has to do with homicides because there is a body. A dead body is, among other things, absolutely reliable evidence of a crime. Oakland has had for forty years a homicide rate, again reliably reported and recorded, of several times the national average. A meaningful reduction in violent crime in Oakland might be seen in a significant, say 25 percent, reduction in the homicide rate that occurs over three years and maintains for several years after that.

Lastly, the perception of crime generally in Oakland, however unreliable it may be, is actually not to be discounted. Violent crime largely affects the poorest and most disadvantaged among us. Violent crime keeps Oakland's communities as a whole from growing and developing socially and economically. Oakland's elected leaders have not been able to deal adequately with crime for many decades, yet Oakland's economy is significantly better than those of comparable cities with much lower homicide rates. Perceptions of crime may eventually bring about the political change in Oakland needed to reduce crime and allow our city to become all of what it should be.

Mike Ferro, Oakland

Gentrification Rebrand Oakland · News 10.9

Bigger Fish to Fry

Area resident here with a strong opinion on this topic. I happen to live in the *Longfellow* neighborhood and while I dislike the name "NOBE," I also don't understand what difference it makes what this area gets called. We have way bigger fish to fry than what moniker ends up sticking. I agree that realtors and other businesspeople have the right to call it whatever they want and the community has the right to accept it or reject it. And if we want jobs to come to the area, jobs that many insist are one of the solutions to Oakland's poverty and crime problem, then those jobs just happen to come with residents who have the means to not only start those businesses, but patronize them and therefore keep those businesses' employees employed.

Catherine Montalbo, Oakland

Acronyms Don't Gentrify

I've lived in 94608 for almost eleven years, at the meeting point of Oakland/Berkeley/Emeryville, and this acronym is new to me. Our neighborhood association has referred to this distinct geographic spot as Three Corners for many years. No one calls this the "Golden Gate District" of Oakland, trust me. And "gentrification," i.e., further eradication of crime in the area, has been a great thing and very slow over the course of ten years. NOBE is no different from calling a neighborhood anything that helps people orient themselves to an area. The acronym won't "hipsterize" or gentrify this spot any faster than anywhere in the crazy unaffordable Bay Area.

Peter Perez, Emeryville

[illegible]

Resources for Parents in Crisis

With great sympathy I read the article, "Maxed Out American Moms on the Brink." In 1971 a single mother of a toddler in Berkeley was striving to get her graduate degree while trying to make ends meet for herself and her son. One night when the little boy was being difficult, she snapped. She grabbed him and was about to bang his head on the bathroom floor when something stopped her. She said to herself "I can't do this. I need someone to talk to." She called a dear friend back east and had a phone conversation. The friend listened and helped her down off the crisis point so that she no longer felt on the brink of harming her child.

After that experience, the graduate student made a vow to start a program so that other mothers in similar situations with fewer resources than herself could find someone helpful to talk to.

The result 42 years later is Family Paths. We now provide direct services to children as well as parents through a whole array of programs helping to prevent violence or help people through the trauma of experiencing it. But the core of our operation is the 24 hour free parent support hotline, which gets well over 6,000 calls a year. Any parent (and by "parent" we mean anyone responsible for a child — many callers are grandparents or foster parents) may call at any time, and may call repeatedly for support, for referral, or just to be heard. The caller may be in a crisis or may just need to talk to someone who will listen. The hotline is staffed by professional clinicians and by volunteers who undergo a training course. The hotline number is 1-800-829-3777. The foster parent advice line is 510-893-5444. Feel free to call us. We can help.

Marcella Reeves, Executive Director,
Family Paths, Oakland

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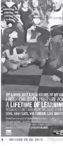
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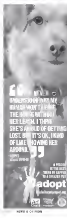
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adopt

OPINION

QUESTIONS REMAIN FOR BART MANAGEMENT

The transit agency's leadership should explain why it prolonged the labor dispute and forced the second strike.

By John Logan

The BART contract dispute is finally over but it should not have taken as long as it did. The dispute also should never have resulted in a second strike, but one was forced by BART management.

A framework for a potential settlement fashioned by the federal mediators was on the table last Thursday, but at the last minute BART management balked. And then, after the start of the second strike, management should have settled by Sunday night. The sticking point was management's insistence that it have the unilateral authority to change employees' schedules to reflect shifting workloads at anytime, anywhere, and in any way it wanted with thirty days' notice. The unions could never agree to this, and their members would never have ratified such a contract. But the union negotiators continued to bargain toward a compromise that was acceptable to both parties.

Contrary to media reports that nothing significant was going on after the second strike started, much actually happened over the weekend. Well into the early hours of Monday morning, the unions met with the one remaining federal mediator Greg Lim, who had worked tirelessly throughout the dispute. By contrast, BART General Manager Grace Crunican took Sunday off — continuing a well-established pattern of absenteeism. Then on Monday, BART management's team finally arrived at 2 p.m., but appeared to be unready to consider a union proposal on the outstanding issue. For several months, BART management had displayed a remarkable lack of urgency in resolving this dispute.

And contrary to statements by BART management — repeated uncritically in the mainstream media — the second strike had nothing whatsoever to do with unions attempting to defend archaic work rules. According to BART management, several thousand workers striked because of their determination to maintain the most outdated and inflexible work rules of any transit system in the country. This was a complete fabrication. Both unions — SEIU and ATU — had accepted significant concessions on important work rules, a point conceded by Crunican at the final meeting between the parties last Thursday. By then, only a few work rules continued to separate the two sides, and the unions tried to meet management's concerns on those rules and offered to submit any remaining disagreements to expedited arbitration. Last week's framework for a proposed deal, rejected by BART management, was not one that served the interests of the unions — it contained several significant concessions that they disliked — but it was a deal that served the interests of the public and would have kept the trains running.

Now that the strike is over, the trains are running, and the contract settlement is in place, it is important that we don't forget how dysfunctional these negotiations have been at every stage. Several critical questions must be answered.

Why did the BART management spend almost $400,000 — including thousands of dollars on lavish and wasteful expenses — on the services of a controversial out-of-state negotiator Tom Hock, who acted as an obstacle to a settlement from the start?

Why was Hock absent for extended periods during bargaining, including in the final week, when he reportedly gave a speech at Disneyland on "The Art of Negotiating the Deal"? And why did BART allow Hock's employer, Veolia Transportation, to profit from the strike by supplying substitute buses?

How much did BART management spend on its disingenuous public relations campaign to convince transit riders that its employees are overpaid, greedy, uneducated, and hell-bent on protecting outdated and inefficient work rules?

Why did BART management refuse to meet with the unions for the first month of the 60-day cooling off period and then refuse to present a new offer until Day 53?

Why was Crunican completely absent from negotiations for five full months, only to finally appear at the bargaining table during the last days before the second strike?

Why was the BART Board of Directors nowhere to be seen during the entire process, except when board President Tom Radulovich emerged last Thursday to give a woefully misleading account of why negotiations had broken down?

How on earth did BART Director Zakhary Mallett — who stated on Friday that management should play "hardball with the union to see who blinks first" — get elected to this important position in the first place? And is he really as clueless about labor-management relations as his sophomoric comment suggests?

Why did BART management sabotage negotiations at several critical points? Management proposed an important deal on the penultimate day of the cooling-off period, then withdrew it and blamed the mediator for a miscommunication, presented a regressive "last, best, and final" offer on the Sunday afternoon before the strike, even as state officials insisted that management withdraw it and continue negotiating; and balked at a potential compromise last Thursday, then blamed "archaic" work rules — why?

Why did BART management refuse to settle the few remaining issues through binding arbitration, which would have kept the trains running?

Why did management continue to resist a compromise on several key safety rules, even after the tragic deaths of two BART employees on Saturday?

For now, we should welcome the end of a dispute that at times seemed like it might never end. But we should be careful not to draw the wrong lessons from this debacle. BART's general manager and its board of directors have many serious questions to answer. ●

John Logan, a professor and the director of Labor and Employment Relations at San Francisco State University, was a close observer of the BART negotiations.

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

WHY BANNING TRANSIT STRIKES IS A BAD IDEA

Any move that weakens labor in the era of *Citizens United* plays right into the hands of the GOP. Plus, the fatal BART crash provided strong evidence that the unions were right.

By Robert Gammon

As the BART labor dispute intensified last weekend, the *Bay Area News Group* reported that calls for a ban on transit strikes were picking up steam. East Bay state Senator Mark DeSaulnier, a prominent Democrat in California politics, said he was considering legislation that would prohibit transit strikes and replace them with binding arbitration. And Steve Glazer, an Orinda councilman and political consultant to Governor Jerry Brown, is mounting a campaign for the Assembly on the issue of banning transit strikes. It's possible that the settlement of the BART labor dispute earlier this week will quell the calls for transit strike bans. And if that happens, let's hope it continues, because outlawing transit strikes is a bad idea for Democrats.

That's especially true in the era of *Citizens United*. The 2010 US Supreme Court decision opened the floodgates for corporate cash in politics. And much of that money has flowed toward the Republican Party ever since. The billionaire ultra-conservative Koch Brothers have the led the way, pumping hundreds of millions of dollars into the Tea Party as well as efforts to defeat President Obama and the Democratic Party. As a result, unions are now more important than ever for Democrats. And any attempts to weaken the influence of labor in California or the nation plays right into the hands of the GOP.

It should come as no surprise that besides Glazer and DeSaulnier, Republicans in the California legislature have been the leading advocates for banning transit strikes in the state. The GOP knows full well how important labor is to the Democrats. After all, unions not only help bankroll Democratic candidates, but they also provide much needed ground support for campaigns — operating phone banks, knocking on doors, and leading get-out-the-vote efforts on Election Day.

Smart Democrats know this, too. It's probably why Governor Brown and state Democratic Senate Leader Darrell Steinberg sounded cool to the idea of outlawing transit strikes. They know that organized labor would not take kindly to any sort of strike ban. The reason is simple. Strikes are the most important tool in any union's arsenal. In fact, without strikes — or the threat of them — it's safe to say that labor would have made no progress in improving working conditions for middle-class Americans during the past century.

Moreover, as key components of the Democratic Party, labor unions help spread the progressive agenda and keep it viable. Without unions — or with a weakened labor movement — Democrats would have a much tougher time pushing for fair tax rates, environmental protections, civil rights, and better educational opportunities for middle- and low-income students, while maintaining the social safety net at the same time. It's no secret that Brown's tax measure — Proposition 30 — would not have passed last year without the huge support it received from organized labor.

Yet to a certain extent, many progressive-minded people take unions for granted — or view them as being antiquated. But that's a mistake. Yes, transit strikes are incredibly inconvenient. But in the big picture, they're a relatively small price to pay for achieving what Democrats hold so dear.

The Unions Were Right

Last Saturday's fatal, tragic BART crash, which killed two workers, provided strong evidence that union officials were right all along about two major aspects of the labor dispute: It takes considerable skill and training to be a BART train driver and that BART workers sometimes toil in dangerous conditions. Moreover, union members were right to warn before the most recent strike that BART managers should not attempt to drive trains in the event of a shutdown, because it's too risky.

Federal investigators said Monday that a trainee was operating the train that struck and killed two workers who were inspecting the tracks between the Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill stations. The *Contra Costa Times* reported that it was the sixth and seventh fatalities involving BART employees in the transit agency's history.

Although it might be several days before federal investigators determine exactly what happened in the crash, it seems clear from what has been reported so far that some opponents of the BART unions were woefully wrong about key issues in this year's labor dispute. For example, some critics of the BART unions contended that the transit agency's workers are unskilled, overpaid, and undeserving of raises. Some even went so far as to suggest that BART workers who went on strike should be fired and replaced.

But Saturday's fatalities revealed that such arguments were bogus — particularly when it comes to BART train drivers. The crash made it clear that train operators hold important jobs that require training and skill. After all, the agency's drivers hold the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in their hands each day. And this fact should been obvious all along.

Indeed, over the years, BART drivers have put together an impressive safety record. BART train accidents are extremely rare. And this reality "isn't based on luck, but the experience and skill of its workforce," Patricia Schuchardt, a BART employee and member of AFSCME — one of the unions that did not strike — wrote in an op-ed last month in the *CoCo Times*.

In addition, Saturday's crash provided strong evidence that attempts by BART management to unilaterally alter employee work schedules — particularly for train operators and communications employees — were wrongheaded. In fact, the unions repeatedly warned before the crash about the safety issues related to changing work rules. ●

Seven Days is culled from our blog of the same name.

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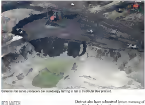
Canadian tar sands producers are increasingly turning to rail to distribute their product.

ECO WATCH

TAR SANDS IN THE EAST BAY?

Fossil fuel companies deny that they're preparing to bring dirty tar sands oil from Canada to the Bay Area, but environmentalists say it's only a matter of time.

By Jean Tepperman

When Lyana Monterrey learned that the energy company WesPac was planning to build a giant crude oil transportation hub right next to her neighborhood in the East Bay city of Pittsburg, she was horrified. "I don't want that nasty stuff in the air!" she said. She also had numerous other concerns about the proposal: "property values, water, wildlife, the danger of accidents, proximity to homes, churches, schools."

At a city hearing this summer, Monterrey was among many residents who voiced opposition to the project. Since then, she and a group of other Pittsburg residents have sprung into action, circulating a petition, encouraging people to send letters, creating a Facebook page, and generally "spreading awareness," she said.

"Pittsburg always gets dumped on," added longtime community activist Jim MacDonald in an interview. He noted that the city already hosts two fossil fuel power plants and a facility to store petroleum coke, a toxic refinery byproduct. In a city with high numbers of low-income residents, many of whom are people of color, MacDonald said his "issue is environmental justice."

Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), the Sierra Club, 350 Bay Area, and the West County Toxics Coalition also sent the city a letter expressing concern that the WesPac project would increase greenhouse gas emissions. Both the Contra Costa Water District and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District also have submitted letters warning of possible hazards from the project.

WesPac, an energy infrastructure company, is proposing to build a rail terminal, a marine terminal, and a new pipeline, making it possible to bring crude oil from drilling sources in inland North America, at a time when the traditional sources of crude along the West Coast — the oil fields of California and Alaska — have been declining. And environmental groups predict that the rail terminals will bring in large amounts of crude oil from Canadian tar sands. And as environmentalists have been successful recently at blocking pipeline projects, drilling companies in Canada are increasingly looking to rail to distribute their product.

A switch to tar sands crude oil would increase emissions of both local pollution and greenhouse gases. The risk of accidents would also rise, environmental groups say, because tar-sands crude is high in sulfur, which corrodes refinery pipes. A corroded pipe caused last year's massive explosion and fire at the Chevron refinery in Richmond.

In an interview, Art Diefenbach, vice president of engineering at WesPac, contended that the project would minimize the dangers of air pollution and accidents with "tanks refurbished to the highest quality standards." He also pointed out that rail transportation creates less air pollution and greenhouse gases than tanker ships. And the charge that the terminal will be used to import tar-sands oil is "a false accusation," he said. "Our customers [the refineries] are not talking about that." Instead, they are asking for the high-quality crude oil being mined by fracked shale deposits in North Dakota, Colorado, and Texas, he said.

Scientists at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), however, argue that Canadian tar-sands oil is by far the cheapest source of crude currently available. They also point to recent reports of a steep decline in the productivity of fracked shale-oil mines after the first few years of operation. So even if WesPac is not currently planning to import tar-sands oil, they say, trends in the industry make that an attractive option, and the creation of a rail terminal makes it possible.

The battle over WesPac's proposal is one of several such fights in and near the East Bay as neighbors of oil refineries are joining with environmental organizations to challenge a

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But in addition to WesPac, spokespeople for projects proposed by oil companies Chevron, Valero, and Phillips 66 contend that their plans will produce economic benefits for the region and will include measures to reduce emissions and ensure safety. They also deny that the projects would lead to importing tar-sands oil. However, scientists at CBE and NRDC have released detailed analyses of the proposed projects, along with trends in the oil industry, to support their claim that the projects will hasten the arrival of tar-sands oil to the Bay Area.

Across the Carquinez Strait, Benicia residents are also "concerned about the cumulative air quality impacts from transporting and refining Canadian crudes," said Marilyn Bardet of the Benicia Good Neighbors Steering Committee. "And also about the possibility of spills." She said no one has yet found a way to clean thick tar-sands oil from sensitive environmental areas.

Bardet and her neighbors, along with scientists at the NRDC, worry that Valero's planned construction of a rail terminal to bring in "North American crude" to its Benicia refinery will, in fact, result in an influx of tar-sands oil. Last month, residents and environmentalists succeeded in persuading the city to do a full environmental impact review of the proposed project.

Valero's proposal to the city does not specify which sources of crude oil they expect to tap, but the plant is now completing a major upgrade that will allow it to process lower-quality crude. Reports about the project in the energy-industry press state that it's designed to bring in crude oil from Canada and North Dakota and note that the company is seeking to lower the cost of the crude oil it refines. Valero's own chart, reproduced in an NRDC report, shows Canadian crude as by far the least expensive.

Some of the neighbors of the Phillips 66 refinery in Rodeo immediately thought about the potential for explosions and fires when they learned about Phillips' proposal to build six pressurized tanks to liquefy and store propane and butane, byproducts of the oil refining process. Charles Davidson, who lives near the refinery in Hercules, said he's also worried that the project is part of "the trend toward bottom-of-the-barrel, unconventional crude."

Phillips 66 spokesman Mark Hughes pointed out that Contra Costa County's draft environmental impact statement found that the project would cause no significant environmental harm. The report also stated that the project would allow the refinery to collect and sell propane and butane, which it now uses to fuel its operations, and run the plant with lower-cost natural gas, which has a "smaller carbon footprint." In addition, Hughes said, the switch in fuel would mean lower emissions of foul-smelling sulfur dioxide. Hughes added that the project would not increase production of propane and butane or require changes in the type of crude oil that the plant refines.

But Greg Karras, senior scientist at CBE, noted that the butane and propane collected and sold by Phillips 66 will just be burned elsewhere — and thus would increase overall greenhouse gas emissions, not reduce them. Moreover, low-quality "heavy" crude oil produces the most propane, and he questions whether Phillips 66 can, as it claims, meet its stated goals for production of propane and butane without shifting toward more dirty oil.

"In the past the industry has not always told the whole truth," Karras noted, adding that the county should at least require Phillips to provide data to back up its claims. In addition, the Phillips 66 website quotes CEO Greg Garland describing the company's goal of lowering costs by bringing cheaper crude, including "heavy crude from Canada" to California refineries.

Environmental groups and neighbors are also challenging the county's preliminary finding that the risk of accidents, air and water pollution, and threat to marine life from the project are "less than significant."

In Richmond, residents are still concerned that Chevron's proposed upgrade of its refinery will lead to the processing of tar-sands and other low-quality crude oil. Chevron's first planned upgrade was blocked in 2010 by a CBE lawsuit; residents are now waiting for the city to produce an environmental impact report on the revised proposal.

Chevron spokeswoman Melissa Ritchie said the upgrade would improve safety and reduce emissions, resulting in "zero net greenhouse-gas emissions."

But since the proposal does not provide details, environmentalists fear that Chevron intends to achieve "zero net emissions" by buying greenhouse gas emissions credits through the state's new cap-and-trade system rather than reducing its own emissions. Ritchie added that the project would allow the plant to process higher-sulfur and heavier crude oil "within the [plant's] existing range," but that includes oil "derived from heavy crude oil and oil sands," according to a statement Chevron sent to the city in 2007.

Besides going toe-to-toe with refineries on local projects, community and environmental organizations are pressing the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to create regulations limiting refineries' environmental impacts. BAAQMD is now in the process of developing a "Petroleum Refining Emissions Tracking Rule." A coalition of community, labor, and environmental groups has submitted a proposal asking the district to adopt a tougher rule that would monitor emissions more closely and impose "meaningful consequences" on refineries that produce more than allowed. They want the district to give each refinery a limit for production of each pollutant that poses a health risk and require them to reduce emissions over time.

Meanwhile, 350 Bay Area and other organizations are pushing the BAAQMD to create a Bay Area Climate Action Plan, setting a regional goal to match the state goal — reducing greenhouse-gas emissions 80 percent by 2050 — and detailing plans for how to get there.

Community and environmental groups working on all these issues are also starting to connect. Groups that organized an August march at Chevron in Richmond have formed the Sunflower Alliance to continue working on refinery issues. On November 6, Bardet from Benicia, Monterrey from Pittsburg, and other refinery neighbors will join representatives from environmental organizations in a panel discussion on regional refinery developments at the Ecology Center in Berkeley.

"Here I thought I was working on my little Pittsburg," said Monterrey. "Now I've found out that it's just a small piece of the puzzle." ●

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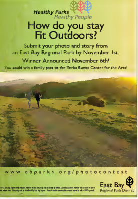
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CITY OF OAKLAND

Oakland's new illegal dumping law focuses on punishment rather than expanding opportunities for people to get rid of their unwanted stuff

Stephen Loewinsohn

What a Waste

Oakland has launched a crackdown on illegal dumping but the effort doesn't address the needs of many city residents, and it's not sustainable.

By Sam Levin

Bassam Alnajdeh and Fowzi Zeino have picked up a lot of trash from the streets of Oakland. On a recent Tuesday afternoon, the two Public Works Department employees drove their garbage truck to more than a dozen sites in the city in response to residents' complaints about illegally dumped items: discarded furniture, bags filled with rotten food, the remains of an abandoned homeless encampment. It could have been much worse. They found no dead animals or human excrement on this shift.

At one of their final stops, the men pulled over on a quiet corner on 16th Street in West Oakland, a neighborhood that has become ground zero for illegal dumping. As they finished sweeping up the debris, Deana Lawrence, a resident of a four-bedroom house on the other side of the block, came chasing after them.

"Do you know later I can get rid of my bed?" she asked.

The two employees mumbled a response, telling her that her landlord should call a phone number for Waste Management, the private company that handles Oakland's trash.

Less than a minute later, she walked away defeated, with the king-size mattress, box spring, and bed frame still leaning against her garage door. Her landlord is unavailable, she said, and it's very possible that he has already used up his once-a-year "bulky pickup" option from Waste Management. That means she realistically has no way to get rid of the furniture — other than to illegally drop it around the corner, in an area that attracts dumpers on a daily basis.

"They make it impossible," Lawrence, a 46-year-old information technology instructor, later told the *Express*. "I don't have any means to take this mattress to the dump." She said she would never consider dumping her mattress on the sidewalk; she is already embarrassed to invite guests over because her neighborhood is so filthy. "It's very frustrating."

Lawrence's conundrum illustrates a fundamental problem contributing to Oakland's illegal dumping epidemic: It can be very difficult to legally dispose of large trash items in the city. Residents of apartment buildings, for example, have almost no pickup options. And while the city is now devoting many of its limited resources to cracking down on illegal dumpers, some residents are questioning why Oakland, through its contract with Waste Management, doesn't give people more opportunities to properly discard belongings. When asked about the problem, some top city and waste officials themselves were at times uncertain about the legal choices available — and the confusion is widespread among residents.

Everyone agrees that dumping is on the rise and out of control in Oakland. Piles of trash — whether an entire bedroom's worth of discarded furniture or buckets of unknown, potentially hazardous materials — have become common throughout the city at underpasses and dead-ends, and in the open on residential and commercial blocks. The garbage is concentrated in poorer neighborhoods, creating a constant public nuisance that hurts property values and poses health, safety, and environmental risks. Some piles come from negligent construction companies or illegal haulers bringing trash from all over the Bay Area to Oakland. Other times, the dumps come from misinformed tenants or irresponsible landlords. Overall, calls for illegal dumping cleanups have increased 34 percent over the last year, with a total of 16,958 service requests last fiscal year.

"It invites more crime and criminals," said Oakland City Attorney Barbara Parker. "It also affects the human psyche."

Parker and members of the city council are trying to combat the problem with a new city law that establishes harsher penalties for illegal dumping. But critics are skeptical about whether Oakland has the resources to apprehend and collect fines from illegal dumpers.

The cash-strapped city already spends $3.3 million a year on contending with illegal dumping and collects close to nothing from violators, who tend to be lower-income individuals who are unable to pay fines — and difficult to catch in the first place. At the same time, the city's new initiative isn't focused on making it easier for people, especially apartment-dwellers, to get rid of unwanted stuff, even though more than half of the city's residents are renters. And sustainability advocates are questioning why a progressive city like Oakland is prioritizing punishment so heavily without any consideration for innovative green solutions to keep reusable items out of the landfill and get stuff to people who may want or need it.

"People are being foreclosed on. People are having to leave and downsize from houses to apartments," said Marcus Johnson, a Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council leader for the Prescott area, who said he witnesses dumping in West Oakland on a weekly basis. "You see a lot of household items that are in good condition, but they have no place for it, so they dump it."

Many can't get to the dump, he said, adding that increased penalties are likely to make little difference. "If I do get caught, even if I get a citation, so what? Where's the enforcement?"

On a Saturday morning last month, Councilman Noel Gallo, wearing a bright-green vest and brown gloves, dug his hands through a massive pile of trash that surrounded an abandoned Church's Chicken in the Fruitvale district. "We may find a dead body," he said to volunteers, only half joking. One of the volunteers nearly vomited after discovering dozens of used diapers discarded around the building. Another one leafed through a pile of thrown-out paperwork, jotting down the names and addresses that were written on several envelopes in the hopes of later identifying who was responsible for the illegally dumped trash. A stray cat ran across the refuse and disappeared under the mountain of debris, which included tires, couches, shopping carts, paint cans, door frames, paper plates, and expired food.

"You're going to see a lot worse," Gallo told a cameraman from KTOP-TV10, the official channel of the City of Oakland, which was working on a segment about illegal dumping. "Are people living under there?"

A short while later, five homeless residents emerged from inside the dark interior of the former fast-food joint, which was filled with stained mattresses, old restaurant appliances,

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Councilman Noel Gallo often leads community cleanups in his Fruitvale district.

Sam Levin

and human feces.

"This is Oakland," Gallo declared later that day, standing amid a pile of construction debris on a nearby sidewalk. "We let it happen and it continues."

Illegal dumping doesn't just plague residential neighborhoods, it also impacts Oakland businesses. Earlier this year, the hundreds of artists and businesses that inhabit American Steel Studios, the six-acre warehouse facility on Mandela Parkway in West Oakland, had to deal with one of the worst illegally dumped construction items: an abandoned porta-potty. Their team efforts to remove it were challenging, to say the least. It sat for weeks near the intersection of Poplar and 26th streets and created a mess when some tried to move it out of the way. "It was really gross," said Anne Olivia, outreach and partnership director for American Steel.

There are many ways to measure the toll illegal dumping has on the operators and tenants of a space like American Steel — beyond the unenviable task of getting rid of a porta-potty. Olivia estimated that her staff spends 25 to 30 cumulative paid hours a month cleaning up trash on the street. American Steel has hired a private security firm, Diehard Security Solutions, which monitors the street and tries to catch dumpers — and graffiti taggers — in the act. The presence of security officers is deterring dumpers, said Joseph Bando, owner of the company. "Word is getting around."

But the frequent dumping greatly damages outsiders' perception of the neighborhood. "This is not the image we want to give visitors, investors, or school kids that walk through every day. We want it to be beautiful, not something crawling with rats," Olivia said.

When American Steel completed one of its first major cleanups in January, volunteers and staff lined up the refuse in neat piles for the city to claim, but because there was such a high volume, the removal didn't happen for weeks, she said. During that time, dumpers added to the piles, scavengers spread it around the street, and a lot of their cleanup progress was essentially undone. "It was a huge disaster."

After that mess, American Steel began working with city council staffers, who were able to provide Olivia with large dumpsters for cleanups, but those supplies are limited and she is not sure she will be able to secure one for her next cleanup.

The office of Councilwoman Lynette Gibson McElhaney, who represents West Oakland, has fielded concerns from at least six businesses that were considering leaving Oakland because of illegal dumping, said Casey Farmer, her policy analyst. "The worst call is, 'We are moving our business. We can't handle the illegal dumping. It's leading to a dangerous situation for our employees,'" Farmer said. "It's tragic that children see it in our neighborhood. This is taking a mental toll on our community." There is also the loss of potential business from merchants who consider West Oakland but go elsewhere after visiting and observing trash heaps, she said.

Some business owners eager to curb dumping will chase after violators and try and photograph their license plates — itself a time-consuming and anxiety-inducing endeavor. "We get in little tiffs with these guys," said Michael Herling, chairman of the West Oakland Business Alert, a merchant group, and chief operating officer for Consolidated Cleaning Services on Willow Street. "They've been doing this for so long that they think it's legal." Sometimes they shout at him when they see his camera, he added. "It's a toxic situation."

Johnson, the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council leader for the Prescott area, who also owns a West Oakland public relations business, said that an illegal dumper once displayed a knife to scare him off — and others will sometimes make indirect threats with their pit bulls. "There's not a week that's gone by that I haven't challenged somebody."

And it's depressing. "We are not sending the message as a city that we care at all about the people who live in the poor parts of Oakland," Olivia said.

David Pellow, sociologist with the University of Minnesota and author of *Garbage Wars*, said that officials should also consider the longer-term impacts of illegal dumping in low-income neighborhoods. "We see a decline in psychological health," he said. "People feel disempowered. People feel marginalized. People feel their city, county, state, and federal government is not looking out for them."

The strain on the city is very real, too. On a given day, twelve public works crews may be working simultaneously responding to as many as eighty requests. It's the most common complaint to the department's call center.

"We see it every day, but we never get used to it. I don't," said Darter English, public works senior supervisor.

"These are taxpayer dollars that we are spending on picking up garbage," added Kristine Shaff, public works spokeswoman. "This is taxpayer money that we could be using for so many other things. This is like throwing away money."

Keep Oakland Clean and Beautiful — the public works arm that oversees illegal dumping — could spend its resources on other work, like graffiti abatement, street sweeping, weed management, and more, said Frank Foster, operations manager. At the departmental level, funds diverted to illegal dumping could be better used for pothole repairs, road maintenance, and larger street projects, public works officials said.

Oakland has tried — and mostly failed — to curb illegal dumping for years with a range of marketing campaigns, cleanup initiatives, and enforcement programs. In 1992, the city council approved funding to create dedicated crews to remove debris and mitigate illegal dumping. And in 2001, Oakland established a so-called Litter Enforcement Program that included eight litter enforcement officers, or LEOs, trained to conduct enforcement and outreach, funded by a $500,000 state grant. "They had a special patrol," recalled Preston Turner, who represents the Melrose High Hopes Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council.

It seemed promising at first. Oakland identified dumping "hot spots" and reduced garbage in those areas with enhanced lighting, signage, fencing, and targeted enforcement. Between 2002 and 2006, according to a 2007 Public Works report, the city logged 2,284 cases of illegal dumping, which added up to more than $2.1 million in fines. The city, however, dismissed nearly four hundred of those cases, totaling more than $460,000 in potential fines. And while city officials billed violators for a total of $1.7 million, Oakland only collected a little more than $200,000 during that period. Meanwhile, the cost of illegal dumping to the city during that time frame — which included personnel, equipment, disposal fees, and more — was $5.1 million each year.

Simply put, a large majority of the reported investigations into specific cases of illegal dumping resulted in no tangible payoff for the city.

The city has a number of explanations for why it has been unable to collect on illegal dumping fines over the years. The public works report stated that many of the offenders cited didn't own property upon which the city could levy financial penalties. Illegal dumping incidents "are among the least viable in terms of collectability," the report said, noting that partial recovery is common due to "lack of asset value or inconsistent employment." (Some dumpers may be homeless, the City Attorney's Office pointed out). Additionally, the report stated, "If these debts can be successfully collected, they typically take four years or longer to be paid." And based on total tonnage collected, only around 3 to 5 percent of dumped material can be tied to a source, according to the report.

"I'm not sure if the approach was analyzed fully and thought through," said English of public works. "The ultimate factor that caused the LEOs to go away was the ineffectiveness of collection."

Stephen Loewinsohn

The office of Councilwoman Lynette Gibson McElhaney, who co-sponsored Oakland's new law, held a cleanup recently in her West Oakland district.

But Foster, operations manager of Keep Oakland Clean and Beautiful, said that the presence of these officers had a positive impact, even if the fine collection did not work. "It showed that there was some enforcement out there, so the citizens saw it."

Parker, the city attorney, added, "Everybody that we collect from is more money in our coffers." The City Attorney's Office also has limited resources and has weathered substantial budget cuts in recent years. "Because we don't have enough person power, we set priorities," she said.

In advance of the new ordinance, the city attorney launched a pilot program to begin ramping up enforcement. Since May, the office has issued more than thirty citations and has about a dozen more in the works.

None of the offenders, however, have paid. And the City Attorney's Office said it is close to reaching settlements with a few of the violators, but does not yet have specific details on when — or how — it will move forward with illegal dumping fine collections.

Oakland's new legislation, co-sponsored by Parker and McElhaney, elevates illegal dumping to a misdemeanor violation of city code (as opposed to an infraction) and establishes a category of "major violations," which includes harmful waste matter, upholstered furniture, electronic waste, and more. In determining penalties, the City Attorney's Office has discretion to consider a variety of factors, including cleanup costs, quantity of the waste matter, the violator's history of dumping, along with the "net worth of the person."

The city plans to charge illegal dumpers $1,000 a day for every day the blight continues. If a dumper leaves behind multiple large items, each one would be treated as a separate violation, meaning an individual who left three mattresses on the street for three days would potentially face a fine of $9,000. The law additionally expands liabilities so that parents could be held accountable for the actions of their children, vehicle owners could be responsible if their cars are used in the act, property owners could be liable for their tenants' dumping, and residents who give their materials to illegal haulers could also face penalties. Cars could be impounded. In some cases, the city could allow defendants who can't pay fines to instead do community service. The ordinance also gives the city council the option of establishing some sort of "reward fund" for individuals who provide evidence that leads to prosecution. The city already encourages residents to report illegal dumping and take photos and videos when it is safe to do so. Residents can log complaints through a mobile app called SeeClickFix and online and by phone with public works. If dumping is in progress, residents can call the police non-emergency line.

At a city council meeting, Richard Illgen, supervising deputy city attorney, called the effort a "new chapter for illegal dumping enforcement," adding that "people who generate waste matter will have what we call cradle-to-grave responsibility for that waste."

But some city officials, including those closely involved in anti-dumping efforts, are skeptical. Do the offices of the city administrator and city attorney have time to investigate, prosecute, and collect fines? Will they have enough evidence? After all, it's not easy tracing the source of a dumped pile to its owner — unless the perpetrator is actually caught in the act, with photographic or video proof to back up allegations. In one recent case, for example, the City Attorney's Office connected a pile of trash that contained a lot of personal information to a family that had recently been burglarized.

Moreover, prosecuting illegal dumping has not been a priority for the Alameda County District Attorney's Office over the years. From 2010 to 2013, the DA's environmental unit only prosecuted around 27 illegal dumping cases in the entire county — and just nine were from Oakland. Those cases typically involved larger-scale dumping of toxic and hazardous materials or the placement of materials harmful to fish and wildlife in or near waterways. (The DA's office prosecutes littering cases as misdemeanors in its branch offices, but statistics regarding those cases were not readily available). Teresa Drenick, spokeswoman for Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, said her office is open to working with partner agencies to take on a dumping

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scenes like the ones plaguing Oakland on a daily basis. "She's a huge proponent of prosecuting environmental crimes," Drenick said of the DA. However, no such collaborations are underway.

It's also unclear whether stricter enforcement actually makes a difference. The City of Richmond installed cameras in two of its fifteen "hot spots" where dumping happens on a daily basis, sometimes even twice or more a day. Over the last three months, in those two locations, there have been zero incidents as a result of the cameras, said Tim Higares, the city's code enforcement manager. "But that doesn't mean they are not dumping in other places," he added.

And much like Oakland, Richmond has few resources to launch full-fledged prosecutions. "We could sit there and investigate," he said, "but the reality is we've got to go pick it up." Last year, Richmond picked up 2,607 mattresses, 2,553 tires and 1,452 tons of illegal dumped materials (Oakland collects about 5,000 dumped mattresses a year). Higares pointed to a report from the Los Angeles Police Department, which has had some success with "street service investigators" who are authorized to make arrests at the scene and book suspects into LAPD facilities. In just one location, investigators made nearly one hundred arrests over a relatively short time period by catching suspects in the act, the 2008 report stated.

But Oakland can't match Los Angeles' financial resources, and illegal dumping is not a priority for the Oakland Police Department. When pressed for comment as to how police respond to illegal dumping calls and what role the agency would play in increased enforcement efforts, OPD spokeswoman Johnna Watson referred me back to public works. "The city has a department specifically for illegal dumping," she said in an email.

When first contacted by the *Express*, some public works and Waste Management officials offered confusing and at times inaccurate statements about the legal options for Oaklanders who want to get rid of bulky items, like mattresses and furniture. It's safe to say that many residents, too, do not know what the available methods are — in part, because there aren't many of them. The biggest gap in services — one that clearly contributes to illegal dumping — is the lack of opportunities for apartment-dwellers and renters in smaller buildings or single-family homes with unresponsive landlords.

Waste Management provides a total of one free bulky pickup a year to residents in single-family homes and occupants of two to four unit buildings. Owners of single-family homes can call Waste Management directly to schedule a pick-up, but renters cannot. Likewise, in larger units, property managers or landlords must schedule an appointment. Waste Management sends out a mailer twice a year to remind property owners of this service.

As a result, the only option for most renters in Oakland is to take their unwanted bulky items to Waste Management's Davis Street recycling and transfer station in San Leandro. The cost to drop off a mattress is $21.70. For residents who don't have a car or truck to transport their stuff to Davis Street, Waste Management offers so-called "job trucks" and "Bagstar bags" for rent. But such rentals are typically cost-prohibitive for many Oaklanders — often hundreds of dollars depending on the location of the pickup and amount of material — and thus are not regularly used.

The lack of options for apartment-dwellers also is amplified by the fact that most Oakland residents are renters. According to the 2010 US Census, renters occupied 58 percent of the housing units in the city. Moreover, a substantial portion of Oakland's population is transient. According to the census, 45 percent of the city's residents reported moving in the previous five years. For many of these families, there are simply not enough opportunities for disposing of household items. That's especially true for low-income residents who do not have the time or resources to take their unwanted belongings to San Leandro.

Consequently, some people dump — or turn to illegal haulers. Rebecca Parnes, recycling program coordinator with Waste Management, explained that no individual or business in Oakland is legally allowed to be paid to haul unwanted items to the dump other than Waste Management. (The only exceptions are contractors doing a job on a site hauling incidental amounts of construction debris and tree trimmers hauling away plant refuse.) In practice, however, there are many illegal haulers who will get rid of junk for a fee, Waste Management and city officials agreed. This problem likely contributes to illegal dumping in a big way. Illegal haulers are not held accountable and have economic incentives to dump stuff at the most convenient location or in hot spots in West and East Oakland.

Some illegal haulers dump trash at hot spots in West and East Oakland.

Sam Levin

Discarded couches are also commonplace in Oakland.

Sam Levin

Illegal hauling, in fact, is something of an unregulated, underground industry in the East Bay. Search for "haulers" on Craigslist and you'll find dozens of individuals on any given day offering their services for an affordable price. However, haulers offering very cheap rates probably have no intention of bringing the trash to the dump, explained one Craigslist hauler who wished to remain anonymous, given that his entire operation is illegal. The man, who lives in the East Bay and is semi-retired, has been hauling for about six years on a part-time basis.

He charges $35 per hour for standard pickups — moving a couch from one location to another, for example — and offers an $80 flat rate for a so-called "dump run," in which he'll load up to about four hundred pounds or one-and-a-half cubic yards of items in his pickup truck to be properly disposed at a local transfer station. Part of that fee will go toward the cost of dumping, with the Berkeley Transfer Station, for example, charging him a minimum of $29.

"We're obviously fulfilling a niche," said the hauler, who argued that Alameda County should license haulers in order to weed out the illegitimate ones who are polluting the streets — and to give customers confidence that their trash will actually end up in the dump. "We provide a micro-service." He does five to six jobs on average on *Saturdays* and *Sundays*, often getting paid by residents who are moving out immediately and have no other options.

The once-a-year bulky pickup option is "really to discourage illegal haulers ... and to encourage folks to get materials out of their home and provide them a legal way and a convenient way of doing that," said Rebecca Jewell, recycling program manager with Waste Management. But Parnes acknowledged that the program is not available to many Oakland residents and that it's challenging to find an alternative option. "You have to have the initiative to actually do it. You have to have the capability to do it, and I think that capability is the biggest barrier because the average person can't load all that stuff up and take it somewhere." She said that many people are ones likely to put their furniture on the sidewalk with a "free" sign, which, even if the furniture is in good condition, is still illegal.

Councilman Gallo, in the anti-dumping recommendations he crafted separate from the ordinance, said Waste Management should increase its number of bulky pickups to once a month and reduce fees at the dump. And when asked about expanding these options, city council, public works, and the City Attorney's Office staffers all said that they would be supportive. "We as a community need to have as many options as possible," said Parker, the city attorney, "so that we can reduce the incidents of people dumping."

"We've got to make it easier," added Farmer, McElhaney's policy analyst. Residents in apartment buildings "are really in a quandary," she admitted. "It's very challenging. I can see where alternative methods of dumping or paying illegal haulers is really enticing."

However, providing more options for apartment-dwellers is not part of the city's new anti-dumping law.

"They are stuck between a rock and a hard place," said the anonymous Craigslist hauler, who added that many residents who hire him want to do the right thing and ask if he actually plans to go to the dump. County waste officials have considered some sort of hauler registration system that would allow for fines, but no proposals are in the works for that either.

Oakland does have an opportunity to address the problems that renters face right now, however. Oakland's waste contract — known as a "franchise agreement" because Waste Management is the exclusive company handling the city's trash — is up for renegotiation. Farmer said McElhaney plans to push for additional options for apartment-dwellers in the negotiation process. Jason Overman, spokesman for Councilwoman Rebecca Kaplan, said of the dearth of options, "This is an ongoing challenge that we are committed to addressing."

But it's unclear whether providing bulky pickup options for apartment-dwellers will actually be a top priority in the negotiations. In its request for bids last year, the city asked for one small pickup each year for occupants of buildings with five or more units. According to the census, 33 percent of housing units in Oakland are in structures with five or more dwellings. That works out to about 57,000 units. However, there is no guarantee that Waste Management will agree to provide bulky pickups to renters of these dwellings.

In addition, an increase in bulky pickup options would likely be associated with rate increases for trash pickup in Oakland, though rates are expected to rise regardless with the new contract. "The logistics of making it work are really challenging," Parnes added, referring to bulky pickup for apartment buildings. "It's creating a whole new program." In large buildings there may be residents moving out every single day, Jewell noted.

But pickups for apartments are not impossible. In fact, Waste Management provides that very service for the City of Emeryville, where, according to the 2010 US Census, 71 percent of the housing units are part of structures with ten or more dwellings. Twice a year managers of properties consisting of four or more units in Emeryville can schedule curbside pickups or provide residents with a "roll-off box," essentially a large Dumpster. Buildings with five hundred or more units can schedule four appointments a year, said Marcy Greenhut, environmental programs technician within the city's Public Works Department. This service, added in 2011, is used regularly by apartment-dwellers. "It's definitely a big help," Greenhut said.

Mike Mahoney, a public works superintendent, said this option also has helped reduce the amount of illegal dumping in Emeryville. The agency was not able to offer specifics on the cost of that service to residents — it was one of many changes in the new contract — but said it was not significant.

During a lengthy interview inside an office at the Davis Street Transfer Station, Jewell added, matter-of-factly, "Illegal dumping is super complicated and it's folded in with social justice and poverty and high-density living and transit and all kinds of other issues — and money."

Negotiations in the past have not delved into this debate, in part because illegal dumping was not such a prevalent problem. Then, the economy plummeted, she said.

Stephen Loewinsohn

Robert Jaco, facilities director of DR3, hopes that a new state law sponsored by state Senator Loni Hancock of Berkeley will greatly expand his mattress recycling business.

On a recent Thursday morning, about 6,000 used mattresses were stacked inside a 25,000-square-foot warehouse in an industrial park in East Oakland. A group of a dozen or so workers were sorting the mattresses and their various parts, stripping steel off of box springs, and handling deliveries from as far north as Redding and as far east as Truckee. The site is called DR3, and it's the largest mattress recycling facility in the country, processing about 125,000 mattresses a year. But as big as this facility is, Oakland officials hope that a new state law will allow the company to expand even more to help solve one of the largest problems associated with illegal dumping: discarded mattresses on city streets.

"The object is to clean up the streets and get mattresses out of the landfills," Robert Jaco, facilities director of DR3, said of SB 254, which was sponsored by State Senator Loni Hancock of Berkeley and signed into law last month by Governor Jerry Brown. Jaco expects that the new law will allow his company to grow substantially in the coming years with four or five new facilities in Northern California and an annual volume closer to half a million mattresses — a number that may grow each subsequent year.

The new state law mirrors programs already in place for recycled bottles, televisions, and other electronics, and will be funded by a fee collected at the point of mattress sales. CalRecycle, the state entity that oversees recycling, will collect the tax and develop a state system to collect discarded used mattresses, dismantle them, and recycle their materials. The state will hammer out a proposal over the next year and a half, said Hancock, meaning full implementation of the law will not happen until 2015.

"If we can establish clear ways for people to have their mattresses taken away and recycled, everybody will win," Hancock said. "We live on a planet that is very fragile and in many places literally drowning in its own waste. Anything we can do to take that waste and reuse it — and create jobs by reusing it — is a great plus."

DR3 is hoping to play a major role in implementation, which is especially fitting given its location in Oakland, a hotbed for mattress dumping.

The mattress recycling law also aims to tackle the dumping epidemic in a way that has been overlooked in the city's new crackdown

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MUST
ROAD WORK AHEAD

Oakland spends $3.3 million a year on cleaning up illegal dumping. Sam Levin

on violators by encouraging more sustainable waste disposal practices. In fact, to date, there have have no serious discussions in City Hall about creating or supporting sustainable solutions to the city's illegal dumping problems, even though Oakland and the Bay Area have long been national leaders in recycling efforts and are home to organizations devoted to sustainable reuse.

"I see so much stuff thrown out [on city streets] … that can be used and not just wasted," said Kendra Puma, founder of Swap It Oakland, a meetup group in which residents can get rid of items they no longer need and pick up other stuff for free. "I really wanted a space where people can get together and [do] hand-to-hand exchange."

As a "Dumpster diver," Puma said she has observed the rise in illegally dumped materials and is always keeping her eyes peeled for items on the street that might be of interest. "It's very much about having access to things that I couldn't afford and also not wasting." While such swaps would not deal with the construction debris, toxic materials, or very large dumps that plague Oakland, they could tap into a more sustainable approach to the overabundance of stuff — in a city in which many transplants need new belongings while others departing need to offload.

That is also the thinking behind Yerdle, a mobile app developed in San Francisco and used heavily in the East Bay. Yerdle allows thousands of users to give and get all kinds of items for free. Users receive credits for joining and earn more credits by giving items away.

"You would be shocked at the demand for things," said co-founder and CEO Andy Ruben. "Cities will benefit from this not only in the avoidance of waste … but in helping constituents have access to more value for less money."

"It's easier to get rid of something if I know it's going to be used by someone else," said Emily Schnipper, a co-organizer of the Really Really Free Market in Redwood City, another local meetup exchange group, adding, "It's a way to provide low-income people with what they need."

There also is already an underground world of scavengers in Oakland who dive through trash — whether Dumpsters or illegal street piles — and walk away with new treasures. It's common for residents to offer unwanted but usable items for free on Craigslist — if interested parties have the means to take it from them. Local thrift shops and organizations like the East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse also help to reduce waste by accepting donations and cheaply selling recycled goods.

But at the policy level, there's little discussion in Oakland, beyond support of the statewide mattress bill, about sustainability in the context of illegal dumping. "Reuse is beautiful," said Jewell, Waste Management's recycling program manager, noting that she is pleased that entities like Yerdle and Freecycle Network, another online exchange organization, are popular in the East Bay.

Parnes, Waste Management's recycling program coordinator, said she sees her neighbors in Oakland's Temescal district promoting this kind of reuse all the time. "I actually had to decide not to bring anything else into my house … because there's a lot of good stuff out there," she said, adding that such efforts are "widely used, but I think it could improve."

But for now, Oakland is moving forward with its plan to impose steeper fines with the hope that residents and outsiders will be dissuaded from illegally discarding their stuff and that dumpers caught in the act will pay what they owe — thereby producing some revenue to offset the costs of cleanups.

And those costs are going up. The city council's 2013-to-2015 budget allocated five additional personnel to deal with illegal dumping along with $530,000 toward more equipment.

At the same time, the exhaustive daily efforts of public works, along with regular community cleanups — all separate from the contracted garbage pickups by Waste Management — will remain a double-edged sword. "We're our own worst enemy," explained English, senior supervisor with Public Works. He noted that as his staff cleans the streets and responds to complaints, it sends a troubling message to dumpers. If you leave a mess lying on the streets of Oakland, someone will pick it up for you.

And odds are you'll get away with it. ●

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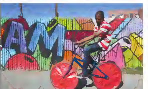

Kristopher McCoy's self-portrait.

Kristopher McCoy and Eph

CULTURE SPY

CREATING THEIR OWN IMAGE

A West Oakland artist tries to confront the tensions of gentrification in her neighborhood head-on — by giving "traditional" residents her camera

By Sam Levin

Kristopher McCoy is tired of people thinking he might rob them. "I'm not that troubled kid," said the fifteen-year-old, who's a freshman at MetWest High School in Oakland. "I'm just another kid trying to make it in life and do right."

For the last several months, McCoy has been reflecting on how people view youth like him, a black teenager living in West Oakland. "For young men growing up here, it's this shaky experience," he said. "People that feel like I might hurt them or I'm going to rob them, they don't know me.... They got to get to know you better."

McCoy recently had the opportunity to confront these stereotypes in a new exhibit called *Here. Before. Art From a Contested Space*. The project — spearheaded by artist Elizabeth Pasterfield-Li, who goes by the name Eph — aims to explore the tensions of gentrification in West Oakland through the perspectives of five "traditional residents," as she calls them. Lending them her camera, Eph helped them create a series of self-portraits based on their day-to-day lives, how they feel gentrifiers see them, and the question of "who is the true storyteller when an image is made?" (In that exercise, Eph photographed the subjects and had them write on the prints with a Sharpie pen.) For the assignment of how gentrifiers see them, McCoy took a photo of his legs, on one of which he drew an image of an ankle monitor. As for how he sees himself, McCoy posed on his Scraper bike.

While Eph gave the participants assignments, and in some instances even pressed the shutter button, the participants ultimately had control over their images and the stories they hoped to tell. The resulting series of photos will be on display at Defremery Park in West Oakland this weekend. The exhibit will also include a panel discussion with the participants — a chance, said Eph, for West Oaklanders old and new to talk about gentrification.

Eph, who is Chinese American and grew up in a suburb of Washington, DC, came to West Oakland in September 2008. "I didn't know about the history or gentrification," said Eph, 32. "I moved to West Oakland, because this is what I could afford."

As she took her first walk around her new neighborhood, she thought, "Something is funny here. I wasn't quite sure if I belonged," she recalled. The question — "Is it okay that I am here?" — nagged her for years.

Eph knew she wanted to explore the topic through some type of photo project, but she wasn't sure how to approach it. "It felt really inappropriate for me to be taking photographs," said Eph, who self-identifies as a "gentrifier." I didn't want any part of my storytelling to interfere. It took me a really long time to figure out."

This summer, she finally decided to hand her camera over to longtime residents of West Oakland who have been impacted by gentrification. Using various methods, including posting fliers in the neighborhood and reaching out to local community groups, Eph recruited the five people included in the exhibit, which in addition to McCoy includes Ayodele Nzinga, the director of the theater company Lower Bottom Playaz who has lived in and around West Oakland for decades, Richard Jackson, a seventeen-year-old who works at Bikes 4 Life; Leander Muhammad, a local basketball coach and afterschool program coordinator; and Antoine Hunter, a deaf dancer who founded Urban Jazz Dance Company and is president of the Bay Area Black Deaf Advocates.

Nzinga said she signed on to the project because she was attracted to the idea of an artistic study of gentrification that let longtime residents control the narrative. "If you don't tell your own story, somebody else will," she said. "It's extremely important to tell your story."

She recounted how she has moved all around the East Bay since she was a child, directly because of gentrification. "It has been a process that has herded me my entire life," she said. For the assignment regarding how newcomers view longtime residents like her, Nzinga staged a photograph in which she "tried to disappear." "We are basically invisible," she said.

And as West Oakland continues to change at a rapid rate, projects like *Here. Before.* are important in recognizing the area's rich history, Nzinga continued. "I consciously want to be a part of, at this point, preserving the legacy."

Hunter, who grew up in West Oakland, said that art is a way to respond to obstacles and challenges. "When you can't express yourself, you start to go crazy," he said. In the case of *Here. Now.*, it's about pushing back against the erasure of the neighborhood's history, he said. "People are coming together to fight for it," he said. "We have a lot here we have to keep alive. And the only way to do that is to bring the community together and keep it together."

For Muhammad, who also grew up in West Oakland, the aim of the project is simple. "We need to talk about this," he said. "We never communicate." He said he hopes this weekend's panel discussion will become something of a regular meet-up to address what he sees as ongoing issues of gentrification, including the fact that resources aren't going to those who need them most and that nonprofit groups purporting to represent West Oakland have outsiders of color. Of Eph's involvement, he added, "Even though she's not truly a resident of West Oakland, I'm glad she took the initiative to do this, to build a bridge."

For Eph, the project is not about stopping gentrification. After all, the median home sale price for the 94607 zip code in July of this year was $407,500, nearly four times what it was in 2009, according to data from local firm ZipRealty. Instead, it is primarily about listening to each other and exploring how people can communicate in a "contested space" like West Oakland.

"The whole point of the project is to not have a goal," she said. "Quietly, my goal is that people can acknowledge each other a little more, even in the simplest ways." ●

Sam.Levin@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details

Here. Before. Art From a Contested Space will be on view at DeFremery Park (1651 Adeline St., Oakland) on Saturday, Oct. 26, 5-8 p.m., free. Facebook.com/herebeforephoto

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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Science Gets Personal

The Bay Area Science Festival collaborates with radio program *The Moth* to bring out the social side of scientists

When people picture scientists doing their work, the image that often comes to mind is a lone biologist sitting at a microscope having a eureka moment, said Kishore Hari, the director of the Bay Area Science Festival. But contrary to popular perception, science is actually a very social field, Hari continued — a fact he aims to illustrate during the festival's collaboration with the storytelling series *The Moth*.

Hari began his career as a chemist in the private sector but it was "talking about science over beers with my friends that made me feel alive intellectually," he said. "I wanted to bring that conversational aspect of science to as many people as possible." So he took on the role of directing the festival in 2011, a public education initiative composed of lectures, workshops, and exhibitions. Now in its third year, the event includes 56 activities serving more than 75,000 people over 10 days.

Christof Koch Jason Fairbrook

To ensure that participants were engaged in the festival, Hari did what any responsible scientist would — collect data. The feedback showed that attendees wanted to get to know speakers more informally, so Hari, a self-described NPR nerd, reached out to *The Moth* to co-produce an event in which scientists could share how they feel about their work, instead of focusing on what they do in the lab.

A nonprofit organization and radio program dedicated to the art of telling stories, *The Moth* also hosts various events across the country, but this will be the first show in the East Bay. The event will be one of *The Moth's* "Mainstage" productions in which "celebrity" storytellers prepare narratives in advance, but according to *The Moth's* producing director, Sarah Austin Jenness, the featured speakers will include a mix of scientists and everyday people, and the stories will all be told in a casual way. "It's like you're telling your best friend a story over a glass of wine in your kitchen," she said. "Except your best friend is over 2,000 people in a theater."

Happening at Zellerbach Hall (near Bancroft Way below Telegraph Avenue, UC Berkeley) on Monday, October 28, the show will focus on the theme "The Big Bang" and will feature *MythBusters* co-host Adam Savage, neuroscientist Christof Koch, actor and writer Annie Korzen, and congressional aide and theater artistic director Gil D. Reyes. For ten minutes, each speaker will share a true, personal tale relating to discovery, creation, and chaos. Koch, for example, plans to recount his reaction when a fellow scientist who was an atheist challenged his religious beliefs.

Hari recognizes that this level of vulnerability is new terrain for scientists. "The challenge is that you spend four years doing your undergrad, and seven or eight years doing your Ph.D. and at no point in your career has anyone put any value on you injecting your own personal story," he said. "We're sort of flipping the script." But having seen the negative consequences of the public's failure to understand issues like climate change, Hari believes it is critical for scientists to learn how to communicate in more creative ways than just publishing papers. "Once you can relate to someone as a person, he said, "you're much more willing to take any information they present to you and listen more deeply."

7:30 p.m., $25-$45. BayAreaScience.org/event/the-moth

—Zaineb Mohammed

ATTRACTIONS

Architectural Tour Docent tours of pioneering architect Julia Morgan's [illegible] Gothic "little castle." Sun., Oct. 27, 1-3:30 p.m., free. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. BerkeleyCityClub.com

[illegible] Ball [illegible] party with costume contest, [illegible] Oct. 26, 9 p.m., $15 general admission, $20 with full costume. [illegible], 1901 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

Display A rambling pop-up event, featuring locally designed goods, DIY workshops, [illegible] Oct. 24, 6-9 p.m., free. Emeryville Public Market, 5959 Shellmound St., Emeryville, 510-[illegible], EmeryMarket.com.

Fall [illegible] Tree Planting Kicking off tree planting season by planting trees in North Oakland. Sat., Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Urban Releaf, 835 57th St., Oakland, www.urbanreleaf.org.

Four [illegible] Hundred Miners: [illegible] hosts two hundred [illegible] at Dunsmuir [illegible] Center. Only for adults 15 years and older. Through Nov. 2, $20, [illegible] Oakland. [illegible] Park [illegible], 15595 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-317-8006, [illegible]

Friday Nights at OMCA Night market with live music and dance lessons. Fridays, 5-9 p.m., $7.50. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland, 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

[illegible] Anniversary Party The [illegible] will venture cocktails, deep space [illegible] Fri., Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m. [illegible], 420 40th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible], www.[illegible].com/

Nerd Nite at Sea A joint venture of Nerd Nite SF, Nerd Nite East Bay, and the Bay Area Science Festival, the event's presenters [illegible] Wed., Oct. 30, $27.50. USS Hornet Museum, 707 W. Hornet Ave., Alameda, 510-521-8448, USS-Hornet.org.

Nerd Nite East Bay The event celebrates its one-year anniversary with an all-science lineup, including [illegible] Mon., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m., $8. The New Parkway Theater, 474 24th St., Oakland.

[illegible] Science Presentation co-sponsored by the Bay Area Science Festival [illegible] Fri., Oct. 25, 6-10 p.m., $12, [illegible] Space, A Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS, & FIESTAS

17th Annual Arab Film Festival Annual showcase of Arab films and filmmakers [illegible] Fri., Oct. 25; Sat., Oct. 26; Sun., Oct. 27, $12. Landmark [illegible] Theatres, 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-464-5980, LandmarkTheatres.com/[illegible]

Berkeley Community Media Horror Film Festival The Berkeley Community Media Horror Film Festival, featuring independent horror films by local [illegible] Sat., Oct. 26, 7 p.m., $10. Berkeley Community Media, 2239 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-848-2288.

Berkeley Video and Film Festival Annual festival [illegible] 80 filmmakers, including 40 selections from [illegible] Oct. 25-Nov. 3, $11.50 [illegible] Center, 1939 Addison St., Berkeley.

Día de los Muertos Celebration [illegible] annual celebration with food booths, [illegible] and beer garden. [illegible]

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Nell Painter
Edwards Professor of American History, Emerita
Princeton University
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471 25th Street

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Warehouse 416
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1427 Broadway

Joyce Gordon Gallery
406 14th Street

Pro Arts
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EAST BAY EXPRESS

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TRUMER PILS

PICKS

Days of the Dead Community Celebration

This Sunday the Oakland Museum of California (1000 Oak St.) will host its 19th annual Days of the Dead Community Celebration to celebrate the Mexican holiday that honors the dead. As usual, the event will include craft activities, food, and musical and dance performances. Bring marigolds or a sugar skull in memory of a loved one and watch demonstrations of traditional Mesoamerican arts and cooking. Be sure to also visit the museum's special exhibition *The Tree of Life and Death: Dias de los Muertos 2013*, which includes artist installations interweaving the themes of life and death with a focus on ecology and habitat and species loss. —*Zainab Mohammed*

Sunday, Oct. 27. Noon-4:30 p.m. $15 for adults, $10 for seniors and students, and $6 for children age nine to seventeen. MuseumCA.org

A dancer at Dias de los Muertos.

Shawn Roberts

17th Annual Arab Film Festival

The largest independent showcase of Arab films in the United States comes to the East Bay this week with screenings at The New Parkway (474 24th St., Oakland) and Shattuck Cinemas (2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley). Featuring films such as *Electro Chaabi*, which explores the underground music scene in Cairo, *A World Not Ours*, a documentary about a Palestinian refugee camp, and *The Lebanese Rocket Society* about a group of researchers who entered the race to space in the early 1960s, the festival covers a variety of topics in films set throughout the Middle East. Collectively, the films challenge stereotypes about Arabs, providing a broader lens through which to view a people who are often misunderstood. —*ZM*

Thursday, Oct. 24 through Sunday, Oct. 27 and Thursday, Nov. 7. $12. AFF2013. ArabFilmFestival.org

ing, art and craft Theater. DIY art projects for kids and adults, vendors, and live [illegible]. Attendees can help create an altar by bringing photos or stories of loved ones, candles, [illegible] or flowers. Tue., Oct. 29, 5-8 p.m. free. Oakland [illegible], Oakland Ave. at Lincoln St., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. NorthShattuck.org.

Day of the Dead Celebration Featuring Aztec dance, Caribbean music, [illegible] making, face painting, a Day of the Dead altar, and more. Tue., Oct. 29, 3-8:30 p.m. free. South Berkeley Farmers' Market, Adeline and 63rd St., Berkeley. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

[illegible] Festival & Celebration [illegible] [illegible] games, face painting, pumpkin painting and carving, a haunted house, as well as a [illegible]. Sat., Oct. 26, 1-4 p.m. free. Salvation Army, 2794 Garden St., Oakland. 510-437-9437. SalvationArmyUSA.org.

KlezCalifornia's Yiddish Culture Festival Annual Bay Area celebration of Yiddish culture for all ages and Klezmer Theater and dancing, Yiddish song performances, and workshops on music, singing, writing, and Jewish history. Sat., Oct. 26, [illegible] p.m., Sun., Oct. 27, 1-6:45 p.m. $48 for adult festival pass, $30 for teens, $12 for children. Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-643-2526. Magnes.org.

Pumpkin Patch Festival The museum runs special Pumpkin Patch [illegible] taking visitors on a scenic five-mile trip at [illegible] Grove Theater. There will be a hay bale fort, food, [illegible] rides, music, crafts and pumpkins for sale. Sat., Oct. 26, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun., Oct. 27, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., $15 for adults, $10 for [illegible] and $9 for Oakland [illegible] Railway Museum, 5848 State Highway 12, Suisun City. 707-374-2978. WRM.org.

Richmond Fall Fest Fall festival with face painting, pumpkin painting and games. Sat., Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The Richmond Plunge, 1 East Richmond Ave., Richmond.

Unstarted: The Berkeley Festival of Stem [illegible] by [illegible], this [illegible] discussions, creative workshops, and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] global [illegible] Sharon Roy, and [illegible] Kate [illegible], and author [illegible]. Fri., Oct. 25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat., Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $100. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

KIDS

Boo at the Zoo Halloween and Samhain [illegible] produced by Bay Area [illegible] Festival and the Oakland Zoo. Featuring trick-or-treating for kids, a costume parade, [illegible] encounters, [illegible] and a Wildlife Theater presentation. Sat., Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sun., Oct. 27, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. $16.25 for adults, $11.75 for seniors and children. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525. OaklandZoo.org.

Creepy Happy Halloween Halloween-related [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] experiments, building [illegible] of [illegible] pumpkins, and [illegible] jack-o-lanterns, and [illegible]. Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun., and 27, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5133. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Family Halloween Ball Halloween party with games, a costume [illegible], and a Thriller dance lesson. Sat., Oct. 26, 6-8 p.m. $5. Casa de Cultura, 1901 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

Frankenstein Puppet Show Halloween show presented by the Puppet Art Theater. Featuring [illegible]. Mon., Oct. 28, 4 p.m., free. Richmond Public Library, 325 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond. 510-620-6561. [illegible]

Halloween Bazaar Featuring children's games, a jump tent, a bake sale, lunch, a [illegible] rummage sale, and live entertainment including the Del Mar [illegible] Family Singers, Jay's Happy Sunshine Burger Joint, and [illegible]. Sat., Oct. 26, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. free. New School of Berkeley, 2008 Bonita St., Berkeley. 510-548-6100. NewSchoolOfBerkeley.org.

Insects vs. Theater The Lawrence Hall of Science's Bay Area [illegible] Theater Featuring event featuring [illegible] of [illegible] and engineering. Sat., Oct. 26, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5133. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

It's a Thriller! Halloween show and party. Featuring performances by the East Bay Dance Center's performing groups and [illegible] a haunted house, games, and a costume contest. Sat., Oct. 26, 7-9 p.m. $1-$5. East Bay Dance Center, 1210 [illegible] Avenue, Oakland.

Jack o' [illegible] [illegible] Halloween festival with costume painting, [illegible] and prizes, costume parade, and [illegible] show by the Children's Theater Program and Storybook Puppet [illegible]. Sat., Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun., Oct. 27, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $10 general admission, $6 for members. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (at Lakeshore), Oakland. 510-452-2259. Fairyland.org.

[illegible] Berkeley's Haunted School An [illegible] children ages seven and up by Berkeley [illegible] [illegible] in Oakland. Saturdays, Sundays, [illegible] through Oct. 31, $11-$14. The Monkey House, 3636 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. [illegible].

Mystery [illegible] Halloween Participants are encouraged to [illegible] as their [illegible] detective with the mission of [illegible] the [illegible] in order to collect the necessary [illegible] to solve and [illegible]. Sat., Oct. 26, 11 a.m. Theater Space & [illegible] Center, 10008 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].

Pumpkin Patch [illegible] [illegible] Berkeley Patch [illegible], including youth [illegible] and a Halloween [illegible] for youth in grades [illegible], with games and prizes. Sat., Oct. 26, 9 a.m.-noon. [illegible] Grove Park, 1730 Oregon St., Berkeley. 510-981-6630. [illegible].

[illegible] Richmond [illegible] [illegible] Art [illegible]. [illegible] skulls, or [illegible]. Sat., Oct. 26, 1-3 p.m. free. Richmond Art Center, 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond. 510-620-6772. [illegible].

Teen [illegible] Dance Youth annual Halloween dance presented by [illegible] Teens. Fri., Oct. 25, 5-8 p.m. $5-$7. Alameda South Shore Center, 272 South Shore Center West, Alameda. 510-[illegible]. SouthShoreCenter.com.

PETS

Halloween Pet Costume Contest The pet store's third annual Halloween pet costume contest with [illegible], goody bags, a [illegible], and raffle prizes. Sat., Oct. 26, 9 a.m. [illegible] Food & Pets, 797 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].

"Howl-o-ween" Pet Parade & Costume Contest Paws & Claws hosts its 10th annual parade where pets, kids, and adults can show up in costume. Sat., Oct. 26, 2-4 p.m. free. Paws and Claws, 3436 [illegible] Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. PawsandClawsOakland.com. ■

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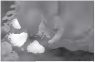
PICKS

The Other Side of the Lake

This month, those who enter Aggregate Space at the juncture of Oakland's West Grand Avenue and West Street will find themselves swallowed by an alternate reality in a bizarre land seemingly far from where they entered. Inside is an arrangement of fifteen pieces by Bay Area artist Brynda Glazer entitled *The Other Side of the Lake*. The solo show includes mixed-media sculptures, paintings, and a non-narrative short film that together form a bizarrely enchanting yet simultaneously cringe-inducing environmental experience. In this hallucinatory dreamscape, sherbet-colored porcelain hands reach out from green fur-covered walls, forming grotesque gestures like meditation mudras from another realm. Glazer's works daringly challenge the viewer to accept beauty within abnormality. "Verecund Mountain," for example, is a porcelain statue of a seated woman whose body looks as if it has melted out of shape into a disfigured blob. Details like its airbrushed peach skin tone, human hair, and glass eyes contribute to an impressively believable execution — an absurd reflection of humanity worth contemplating. *— Sarah Burke*



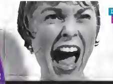
[illegible]

Through November 2 at Aggregate Space (801 West Grand Ave., Oakland). AggregateSpace.com

[illegible]

MUSEUMS

[illegible]



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PSYCHO

OCT 30 8PM

Joshua Gersen conductor
San Francisco Symphony

Herrmann *Psycho* (film score)

Music and film go hand in hand—Hitchcock himself once said "33% of the effect of *Psycho* was due to the music." Experience Hitchcock's most famous film like you've never seen it before.

THE LODGER SILENT FILM WITH ORGAN

OCT 31 7:30PM

Todd Wilson organ

The Lodger silent film with organ accompaniment

Celebrate Halloween night with Hitchcock's early silent film *The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog*. Organist Todd Wilson accompanies this little-known thriller in fittingly ghoulish tones for Halloween night.

HITCHCOCK WEEK MEDIA PARTNER SF

VERTIGO WORLD PREMIERE

NOV 1 8PM LIMITED AVAILABILITY

Joshua Gersen conductor
San Francisco Symphony

Herrmann *Vertigo* (film score)

The Symphony performs Herrmann's score to Hitchcock's 1958 psychological thriller *Vertigo*—presented here for the first time with live orchestral accompaniment.

HITCHCOCK! GREATEST HITS

NOV 3 8PM

Joshua Gersen conductor
Eva Marie Saint host
San Francisco Symphony

Murray Excerpts from *To Catch a Thief*
Herrmann Excerpts from *Vertigo*
Tiomkin Excerpts from *Strangers on a Train*
Tiomkin Excerpts from *Dial M for Murder*
Herrmann Excerpts from *North by Northwest*

Hitchcock Film Week concludes with an evening of clips from Hitchcock classics hosted by Eva Marie Saint, star of *North by Northwest*.

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THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

[illegible] Comedy A special evening of stand-up comedy featuring cutting-edge comedy from up-and-coming comedians from around the Bay and beyond. Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m. $5. The Legionnaire Saloon, 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. LegionnaireSaloon.com.

[illegible] Comedy Night A weekly comedy show hosted by [illegible] and Marc. Fridays, 9 p.m. $10. MLK Cafe, 3800 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. [illegible]

Comedy Showcase W/ [illegible] [illegible] Entertainment presents a comedy [illegible] including Bill Kay, Fred Woods, Mike Martin, and [illegible]. Sat., Oct. 26, 8-10 p.m. $15. Englander Sports Pub, 101 Parrott St., San Leandro, 510-357-3571. EnglanderPub.com.

The Last Laugh With Sebastian Webster and various comics. Fridays, Saturdays 10:30 p.m. $8-$10. The-Last-Laugh.com. Pan Theater, 2135 Broadway, Webster 415-[illegible]. PanTheater.com.

Laugh & Play [illegible] food stand-up comedy, with music by DJ [illegible] and food and drink [illegible]. Fourth and second Thursday of every month. 8-11 p.m., $10. Club Anton, 428 3rd St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

Layover Comedy Mike Spiegelman hosts some of the best Bay Area comedic talent. Tuesdays, 8:30-10 p.m. Free. The Layover, 1517 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-1517. OaklandLayover.com.

[illegible] Show featuring the Bay Area's top comedians, improv talent and musicians for an evening of satire, standup, improvisation, and music. Fridays. Continues through Oct. 25, $15. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291. TheMarsh.org.

Open Mic Comedy A weekly open mic for both veteran and up-and-coming comedians. Sundays, 8 p.m., one-drink minimum. Continental Club, 1658 12th St., Oakland. 510-375-8313. Facebook.com/[illegible]Comedy.

[illegible] Stories: Real [illegible] Bay Area comedian Gina Gold presents a new Berkeley comedy series. Fourth Thursday of every month. 7:30 p.m. $10. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Sound Stuff Comedy Free comics, shows, and pinball. Mary Van [illegible] hosts the comedy portion of the evening featuring Webster performances by Christopher John, Aly [illegible], Kelly [illegible], and [illegible]. Wed., Oct. 23, 8 p.m. $20. Pacific Pinball Museum, 1510 Webster St., Alameda. 510-769-1349. PacificPinball.org.

Stinking Comedy Open mic comedy night. Hosted by DJ [illegible]. Sign-ups at 8. Thursdays, 8:30-11 p.m. Free. Stork Club, 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6174, StorkClubOakland.com.

Saturday Night Comedy and Poetry Hosted by LeRoy Stanfield Jr. Ages 21 and up. Saturdays, 9 p.m. [illegible] Productions.com. Island Paradise Club, 1430 Webster St., Alameda, 510-[illegible]. IslandParadiseClub.com.

The Unfold Story With weekly improv comedy. Additional show precedes hours at 8 p.m. Saturdays, 8 p.m. $10-$12. Pan Theater, 2135 Broadway, Oakland. 415-261-1642. PanTheater.com.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Argentine Tango Jack Matar will give a comprehensive presentation on the roots, history and culture of Argentine tango, with music and a special live performance of the dance. Sat., Oct. 26, 1-3 p.m. Oakland Public Library, César Chávez Branch, 3301 E. 12th St., free, and 510-535-5620. OaklandLibrary.org.

Festival of Contemporary Indian [illegible] Webster Featuring two experimental, socially engaged Indian dance [illegible] Maya Krishna Rao and Berkeley [illegible]; this festival will generate interdisciplinary conversations on the ways in which performance, [illegible] and [illegible] offer space for [illegible]. Tue., Oct. 29, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Bancroft Studio, 2401 Bancroft St., Berkeley.

Nederlands Dans Theater Sehnsucht [illegible] place in a [illegible] cube set to the music of Beethoven. Schmetterling finds dancers revealing their personalities against a score by the Magnetic Fields. Thu., Oct. 24, 8 p.m. Tickets start at $30. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley. [illegible] 510-642-2800. CalPerformances.org.

LIVE VARIETY

The Art & Rhymes of [illegible] and [illegible] Berkeley [illegible] Jessica Hutter's one-woman show with art, music and [illegible]. Sat., Oct. 26, 8 p.m. [illegible] Theater, 3201 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-653-3320.

We're Having A Luau Bay Area Showcase Chorus presents their show [illegible] featuring guest performances by Carousel Quartet, With A Band Quartet, and [illegible] Hawaiian Band. Sat., Oct. 26, 2:30-4:30 p.m., $15 for adults, $10 for under 12 and [illegible]. Smith Center, Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont, 510-659-6031. SmithCenter.com.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

Almost Maine The play tells the story of ten friends and lovers one night in the mythical town of Almost, Maine on a cold winter's night. Presented by [illegible], written by John Cariani, and directed by [illegible]. Thu. and Fri., Oct. 24 and 25, 8 p.m., Sat., Oct. 26, 8 p.m., Sun., Oct. 27, 3 p.m. $8-$12. [illegible] Rehearsal Hall, 20 Cesar Chavez Student Center (UC Berkeley), Berkeley, 510-643-1347.

Bread and [illegible] New short plays by contemporary playwrights. [illegible] Sundays, 7 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Nov. 8. LaVal's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4445.

Buried in the Body [illegible] [illegible] Ensemble presents the world premiere of the play by [illegible] Webster [illegible] installations by local visual and performance artists. Thu., Oct. 24, 8 p.m., Fri., Oct. 25, 8 p.m., Sat., Oct. 26, 8 p.m. Uptown ArtPark, [illegible] Telegraph [illegible].

[illegible] You Did It? One-man show with Dan [illegible]. Through Dec. 15, $15-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

Don't Dress for Dinner Comedic bedroom farce presented by Center REPertory Company. Written by Marc Camoletti. [illegible] Sundays, 2:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Nov. 23. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-295-1400, LesherArtsCenter.org.

A Little Princess A play based on Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel, by [illegible]. Directed by Elizabeth McKoy. Oct. 30-Dec. 8, Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542. JuliaMorgan.org.

Melancholy, a Berkeley Solo comedy probing mental illness and care-giving. Written and performed by [illegible]. Through Feb. 2, 2014. $25-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291. TheMarsh.org.

A Midsummer Night's Dream UC Berkeley presents Shakespeare's classic. Fri., Oct. 25, 8 p.m. Sat., Oct. 26, 8 p.m. Sun., Oct. 27, 2 p.m. $15 for general admission, $10 for students, seniors, UCB faculty and staff. Zellerbach Playhouse, 2430 [illegible], Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible] A [illegible] comedy written in [illegible] by the English playwright [illegible]. Saturdays-Sundays, 2 p.m., Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Oct. 26, $25 for adults, $22 for students and seniors. California Conservatory Theatre, 999 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-632-8850, CCT-SL.org.

Ovid's Metamorphoses Inferno Theatre presents the world premiere of Giulio Cesare Perrone's adaptation of Ovid's Metamorphoses using movement, multimedia, music, and both [illegible] and modern text [illegible] the relationship [illegible] Ovid's work, [illegible] Cultural Change, and the Human Genome Project. Thu., Oct. 24, 8 p.m. Fri., Oct. 25, 8 p.m. Sat., Oct. 26, 8 p.m. $10-$35. South Berkeley Community Church, 1802 Fairview Street, Berkeley.

The Pianist of Willesden Lane Set in Vienna in 1938 and in London during the [illegible], The Pianist of Willesden Lane [illegible] the true story of Lisa Jura, a young Jewish musician [illegible] are interrupted by the Nazi regime. [illegible] 25-Dec. [illegible]. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile The [illegible] of Berkeley puts on this play written by [illegible] and directed by [illegible]. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Oct. 26, $12 students/seniors, $15 general. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

PICKS

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike

It's not surprising that *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* won a 2013 Tony Award for Best Play. Written by Christopher Durang (*Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You*), *Vanya* is a comedic powerhouse furnished with emotional depth and a self-effacing screwball tone that makes its nearly three-hour run fly right by. There's so much to praise about this show. Let's start with how it's not really about Chekhov at all. Thank goodness. What with the government shutdown, we can all use a little laughter, which the works of Debbie Downerish rarely provide. What Durang does instead, with the help of superb direction from Richard E.T. White and a bangin' cast, is take the high art of theater (with classical Greek allusions and everything) and themes of loss and familial dysfunction (Chekhov's specialty) and blend them with amusing anecdotes and broad, physical humor until they're distilled into a palatable, fermented beverage that we can all enjoy far less guiltily than those fake Cronuts popping up everywhere. *— Anna Pulley*

Through Oct. 25 at Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre (2025 Addison St., Berkeley). $35-$89. 510-647-2949 or BerkeleyRep.org.

Nederlands Dans Theater

Nederlands Dans Theater

Cal Performances has set a high bar for the dance season by opening with Nederlands Dans Theater, one of the world's premier contemporary companies. For more than thirty years its name was nearly synonymous with that of former artistic director Jiří Kylián, who both defined the Dutch company and redefined dance with genre-defying, abstract, and sometimes deeply personal choreography. Paul Lightfoot is now at the helm, with his longtime choreographic partner and fellow former NDT dancer (and former wife) Sol León as artistic adviser, and this week at Zellerbach Hall (Bancroft Way below Telegraph Ave., Berkeley), the company's peerless dancers will perform two of their many co-creations: *Sehnsucht*, danced partially in a revolving box and entirely to Beethoven, and *Schmetterling*, with solos, duets, and ensemble segments layered to music by composer Max Richter and singer-songwriter Stephin Merritt of The Magnetic Fields. An artist talk precedes Thursday's show, at 7 p.m., free to ticketholders. *— Claudia Bauer*

Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 23-24, 8 p.m. $30-$92. 510-642-9988 or CalPerformances.org

Red Virgin A new play about the tumultuous events of the great [illegible] uprising known as the Paris Commune of 1871. Written by Gary Graves. Directed by [illegible]. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Nov. 24. $10-$28. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

The Song of the Nightingale A musical that tells the story of a little brown bird who transforms the entire kingdom of China with just her song. Based upon a beloved fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen. Sundays, 2 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Nov. 17. $24 for adults, $21 for students and seniors. Altarena Playhouse, 1409 High St., Alameda, 510-523-1553, Altarena.org.

Strangers, Babies A story [illegible] with a [illegible] whose secrets are revealed through encounters with her husband, her father, her brother, a one-night stand and a stranger. Through Nov. 17, $8-$30, Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-665-[illegible]. ShotgunPlayers.org.

Swing Shift [illegible] Players Theatre presents an adaptation of the Joseph Fabry novel by Kathryn [illegible] Berkeley [illegible] in 1943. Swing Shift is Fabry's recollection of his [illegible] and experiences working at the Kaiser Richmond Shipyard during World War II. Oct. 26 and 28. Sundays, 3 p.m., Fridays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Nov. 10. $15 for adults, $10 for [illegible]. Red Oak Victory Ship, 1337 Canal Blvd., Richmond. 510-237-2933.

Tell It On Berkeley Storytelling, solo performance, and live music, with a rotating cast of performers. Last Sunday of every month, 7 p.m. $8-$15. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291. TheMarsh.org.

Thrill Me: The Leopold and Loeb Story True crime story presented by "I Love that Book" productions. Mon., Oct. 28, 7:10 p.m., Tue., Oct. 29, 7:10 p.m. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1400. LesherArtsCenter.org.

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike In Bucks County, PA, Vanya and Sonia have frittered their lives away in their family's farmhouse. Their self-absorbed [illegible] sister Masha [illegible] with her [illegible] 20-something boy toy Spike, and the stage is set for an [illegible] of [illegible] rivalry and global [illegible]. Written by Christopher Durang. Directed by Richard E.T. White. Through Oct. 25. Roda Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org. ■

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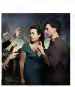
THEATER REVIEW

GHOSTS OF ANCESTORS PAST

Ragged Wing Ensemble's *Buried in the Body* isn't your typical theater in the park.

By Anna Pulley



Because of its short running time, *Buried in the Body* only skims the surface of its theme.

Buried in the Body opens Ragged Wing Ensemble's 2013-14 season, "Just Ripe," which promises to explore the always-timely themes of food, sex, and death. *Buried*, which is the company's fourth fall festival show, is a theater performance, as well as four experiential installations by local artists. The venue for the show changes three times during the show's three-week run — I saw *Buried* in Oakland's Mountain View Cemetery, on a small patch of grass in front of a mausoleum. It was certainly a unique venue, and aside from a few unexpected annoyances (sun in my eyes, ants in my pants), the graveyard scene suited the play's otherworldly subject matter.

The transient nature of *Buried* also fits well with its ensemble's nomadic existence. But after nine years of rolling stone-dom, Ragged Wing is opening a new, shared, multidisciplinary arts venue this spring in downtown Oakland called The Flight Deck (TheFlightDeck.org). The 99-seat space will be home to the theater company and other local performing arts groups, which is good news for Bay Area theater buffs who are tired of making the trek to Berkeley all the time.

But back to the play. Written by Anthony Clarvoe (*Pick Up Ax*, *Our Practical Heaven* at Aurora Theatre last year), the tale involves two former lovers, Lorne (Soren Santos) and Claire (Wendi Gross) who meet in a cemetery for a picnic and to scatter Lorne's mother's ashes. Meanwhile, three wandering spirits (Michele Owen, Marlene Yaroch, and Thomas Arndt) possess the bodies of unsuspecting humans when their minds begin to wander. Meanwhile, a middle-aged woman (Jenny Holland) plays live music and sings for money while her baby sleeps in a stroller nearby. Tensions between Lorne and Claire mount when Claire reveals she has the ability to communicate with the dead, and the host spirits nearby start to intrude on not just their picnic, but their minds and souls, too.

The spirits grotesquely pantomime the wants and insecurities of their human hosts, all while espousing advice from their mother (God? A shared ancestor? Mayor Quan? It's difficult to say). "My mother always said if you're going to do something, do it well," they state over and over. All the characters tell overlapping versions of a similar narrative, though it's spaced out enough to not seem tiresome, which is good because the play is a scant forty minutes long.

Buried takes cues from the ghosts of ancestors past, with the idea that we are haunted by the people who helped create us. "The succeeding generations must reconcile what has been buried in their body by the deceased with the autonomous life they want to live," writes director Adam Sussman in the program notes. It's an interesting premise, that our lives in the present run parallel with a past we haven't lived but also can't escape, that we are ghosts who haunt ourselves. But the idea doesn't have much of a chance to come to fruition in such a short duration. The metanarrative is too thrifty to be a proper ghost story, and the repetitive dialogue, while at times capturing the peculiar cadence of alienation in the vein of Samuel Beckett, veered just as often into nonsense. The dramatic minimalism and haunted tone also seemed out of place in the sunny, warm afternoon (though it might work better in the 8 p.m. shows), and much like the spirits *kinda* had bodies, Lorne and Claire kinda had a story and history and dimensionality, but we only had time to glimpse the surface of them.

The ghosts' rantings had an engrossing poetic rhythm, at turns incoherent, at others wistful and elliptical, evoking a struggle toward a vast unknown. (Heaven? Hell? Emeryville? It was difficult to say.) As the former lovers work themselves into a fitful and sexy reconciliation, the ghosts go wild and mad, smearing strawberries and wine on themselves as if suffering from a compulsive disorder. The words to the song, "As the Crow Flies," which are also sung softly just off stage, are repeated by the spirit hosts, both like a mantra and the ravings of lunatics. Despite the raw physicality and the crazy, the play also had a few funny moments as well, which was a welcome reality shift.

The related art installations offer more chaos and more repetition — a communal picnic with fellow audience members uses the same foods Lorne and Claire ate, and a "Forest of Memories" displays wooden chunks emblazoned with the play's dialogue up in a tangle between the graves, for instance.

While *Buried*'s themes are a bit stark and ambient for your typical "theater in the park" show, it's also a novel experience. Plus, it's short and free, and one of the installations serves chocolate, cheese, and strawberries, which is never a bad way to spend an evening. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details

Buried in the Body runs through November 2 at City of Oakland Uptown Art Park (Telegraph Ave. and 19th St., Oakland) and Live Oak Park (1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley). Free, RaggedWing.org.

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LECTURES

Artist Panel Discussion: from Grass Roots [illegible] exhibition [illegible] will discuss their work in the context of the exhibition's [illegible] grassroots and other [illegible] into their own artistic practice and process. Sat., Oct. 26, 4-6 p.m. Kensington Art Center, 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. KensingtonArtCenter.org.

Contemporary Poetry [illegible] Russian poet [illegible] socially engaged poetry in the post-[illegible] [illegible] Oct. 28, 4 p.m. Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. Berkeley.edu.

[illegible] Update: [illegible] A CENSA Forum [illegible] economic [illegible] program in the Palma Soriano River [illegible] project, will present updates on their work. Wed., Oct. 30, 7 p.m. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Cycling the Road [illegible] Father Michael [illegible] [illegible] Thu., Oct. 24, 7-8:30 p.m. [illegible] 1538 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140. [illegible]

Exploring Space and [illegible] author [illegible] will teach students [illegible] inquiry and activities aimed at [illegible] understanding of space and the [illegible] around us. Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Oct. 30 through Nov. 20. [illegible] for Creative Inquiry, 2018 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Forensic Architecture [illegible] Professor [illegible] and [illegible] Visual [illegible] Centre for Research Architecture at Goldsmiths, University of London, explores the history and [illegible] of architectural analysis. Mon., Oct. 28, 4-6:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-643-8000. Berkeley.edu.

Image of Change [illegible] [illegible] book discussion by the [illegible] students. Thu., Oct. 24, 6:30-[illegible] p.m. [illegible] The Berkeley Theater, 474 24th St. [illegible]

[illegible] of Right: A Liberal [illegible] Strong State [illegible] on India's economic [illegible] and its Significance for [illegible] [illegible] Thu., Oct. 24, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Haas School of Business, 2220 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-2088. Haas.Berkeley.edu.

Negotiating Ahead? The United States, Russia, and the Prospects for Arms Control In light of the [illegible] of the U.S.-Russian relationship, [illegible] will [illegible] the scenarios for future arms control [illegible]

[illegible] and [illegible] will discuss Professor [illegible] 4-5:30 p.m. [illegible] Auditorium, [illegible] Hall, Berkeley.

Prisoners of [illegible] discuss his [illegible] 300 [illegible] Berkeley activist and [illegible] Cynthia Papermaster will discuss the Berkeley campaign to bring two released prisoners of [illegible] to Berkeley, [illegible] passed by the Berkeley City Council in 2011. Thu., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation $5-$10. Berkeley Unitarian Universalists, 1606 Bonita Ave., Berkeley.

Solidarity and [illegible] Building the Next [illegible] Left Panel discussion with author John Nichols, Catherine Tactaquin [illegible] the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and [illegible] co-founder of POWER (People Organized to Win Employment Rights) and founding member of Left Roots. Fri., Oct. 25, 7:30-9:30 p.m., free. [illegible] 388 27th St., Oakland. 510-663-6818. [illegible]

S. LaFranica [illegible] The anthropologist discusses his book, [illegible] Thu., Oct. 24, 6-7:30 p.m. [illegible] Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-0585. University PressBooks.com.

[illegible] of [illegible]: the Birth of a [illegible] [illegible] Arts and [illegible] discuss [illegible] Stanley L. Hansen will discuss the beginnings of the Bauman arts and [illegible] Mission-style furniture. Thu., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-843-3027. HillsideClub.org.

The Study of Jain [illegible] symposium in [illegible] of Professor Padmanabh Jaini's 90th birthday, bringing together a [illegible] group of leading experts on Jainism from Europe and the US who work in different [illegible] of Jain Studies and represent [illegible] disciplines, including [illegible] [illegible] history and art history. Sat., Oct. 26, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Stephens Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-8000. Berkeley.edu.

Thích Nhất Hạnh The respected Zen master, poet, and human rights activist Thích Nhất Hạnh discusses how mindfulness practice and meditation can bring [illegible] inner space and affect the people around you and the world. Mon., Oct. 28, 3 p.m. [illegible] Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. ParamountTheatre.com.

[illegible] The Berkeley Science [illegible] [illegible] the Bay Area Science Festival event exploring the science of [illegible] and showcasing the ways that [illegible] [illegible] Sat., Oct. 27, 6-10 p.m., $7 [illegible] [illegible] 2150 [illegible] Way, Berkeley. 510-809-0900. [illegible]

Professor and UC Berkeley Professor [illegible] Lecture by UC Berkeley [illegible] professor and museum curator [illegible] [illegible] Co-sponsored by the Bay Area [illegible] Sat., Oct. 26, 5-6:30 p.m., free. Valley Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-8000. Berkeley.edu.

LITERARY EVENTS

[illegible] [illegible] talk [illegible] on the author's [illegible] and [illegible] in the Fight [illegible] Wed., Oct. 30, 12:30-1:30 p.m. $10 general admission, free to [illegible] faculty, staff, and [illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 2020 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761. TheFreight.org.

[illegible] The professor of psychology at UC Berkeley [illegible] from the book [illegible] Fri., Oct. 25, 7 p.m. [illegible] 1790 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] from her book, Face [illegible] Wed., Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m. Pegasus [illegible] [illegible] 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley & Oakland. 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

[illegible] [illegible] from his book, *The Family: Three Journeys into the Heart of the Twentieth Century*. Thu., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

[illegible] The local writer [illegible] from his new book [illegible] Sat., Oct. 26, 2:30-5 p.m. Oakland Public Library [illegible] Branch, 5205 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5049. OaklandLibrary.org.

George Starkey The poet [illegible] from his newly released book, After [illegible] Oct. 26, 3-4 p.m. Suggested donation $5-$15. [illegible] 2736 Hillside Ave., Berkeley.

[illegible] [illegible] storytellers from Stagebridge Senior [illegible] Company of Oakland [illegible] Oct. 27, 2 p.m., $10. First Congregational Church, 2501 [illegible]

A [illegible] Discussion of [illegible] Sun., Oct. 27, 3-4 p.m. [illegible] 3090 Claremont Ave., Berkeley. 510-655-8772. [illegible]

Halloween [illegible] Celebration of comic [illegible] and Halloween [illegible] and every [illegible] Oct. 26-Nov. 3. The Escapist Comic Bookstore, 3090 Claremont Ave., Berkeley. 510-982-6442. [illegible]

J. Craig [illegible] Reads from her book, *Life at the Speed of Light: From the Double Helix to the Dawn of Digital Life*. Co-sponsored by the Bay Area Science Festival. Fri., Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m. $15 general admission, $5 for students. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

Jo Baker [illegible] from her novel, *Longbourn*. Fri., Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

[illegible] [illegible] the new book, *How to Read a Novel* [illegible] Oct. 25, 7 p.m. [illegible] 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] *The Filipino-American* [illegible] *of Political Cartoons and Family-Free Chickens* and a *Pig for a* [illegible] with a slide show and refreshment. Sat., Oct. 26, 2-4 p.m. Berkeley Public Library Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible] and Maggie Schmitt The authors discuss and sign their new cookbook, *The Gaza Kitchen: A Palestinian Culinary Journey*. Sun., Oct. 27, 2 p.m. $10-$20. [illegible] Day School Berkeley, 380 42nd St. (between [illegible] & Opal St.), Oakland. 510-653-0017.

[illegible] Reads from her book, *Mrs. Poe*, [illegible] a love triangle involving Edgar Allan Poe [illegible] Oct. 28, 7 p.m. Books Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda.

McSweeney's Poetry Night [illegible] and Allan Peterson read from their works. Wed., Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

[illegible] [illegible] in conversation with [illegible] about his new book, *Things That Matter*. Sun., Oct. 27, 7 p.m. [illegible] Center for the Arts, 901 Magnolia Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] her cookbook, *The French Kitchen Cookbook: Recipes and Lessons from Paris and Provence*, with [illegible] prepared by [illegible] Kitchen and wine from [illegible] Wed., Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m., $50. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

[illegible] and [illegible] The poets read from their works. Thu., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

[illegible] [illegible] launch party for the authors' book, [illegible] Oct. 29, 7 p.m. Books Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda.

Sisters of Crime Mystery Panel Authors of the Sisters in Crime [illegible] and Juliet [illegible] will discuss their writing, [illegible] books, and the state of the publishing [illegible] Sat., Oct. 26, 2-4 p.m. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685. Hayward-CA.gov.

[illegible] The author reads from her new novel, *Spider of a Frog* [illegible] Jonathan Edwards [illegible] eighteenth century Northampton, Massachusetts. Thu., Oct. 24, 4 p.m. [illegible] Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. Berkeley.edu.

Uniquely Yours, A Hood Writers' Writing Workshop Author Peggy Simmons leads a workshop for authors of all levels of experience, and genres, ages 18 and up. Drop-ins welcome; long-term participation encouraged. Fourth Sunday of every month, 2-3:30 p.m. $10-$25. [illegible] Paper Scissors Collective, 2278 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-238-9171. [illegible]

Victoria Nelson Reads from her book, *Gothicka: Vampire Heroes, Human Gods, and the New Supernatural*. Tue., Oct. 29, 7 p.m. Books Inc., Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

Youth Speaks Workshop Youth Speaks' [illegible] writing and participation workshop series, open to all. [illegible] Tue., Oct. 29, 6 p.m., free. Berkeley Public Library Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

PICKS

Uncharted: The Berkeley Festival of Ideas

For all the brainiacs, boldfaced names, and big thinkers crammed into the few square miles that is Berkeley, it's kind of shocking there isn't already a large-scale, wide-ranging TED-style conference in full swing there already. But here we are, and here comes Uncharted, a two-day "ideas festival" that's being organized by the hyperlocal blog Berkeleyside at various locations in downtown Berkeley and which is set to feature speakers including Reuters finance blogger Felix Salmon, National Center for Lesbian Rights Executive Director Kate Kendell, Daily Kos founder Markos Moulitsas, cookbook author Mollie Katzen, UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks, and dozens more luminaries from the tech, political, science, and arts worlds. A small warning: All these big names don't come cheap, but admission to Friday night's event is included in the price of admission, and scholarships are available. — *Ellen Cushing*

Friday Oct. 25 (10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.) and Saturday, Oct. 26 (9:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.), $295 for one day, $390 for both. BerkeleyIdeas.com

Jo Baker

Jo Baker

Alternative, parodying, or otherwise adaptive takes on famous books have recently become trendy — and perhaps no classic work is more susceptible than *Pride and Prejudice*, with its eminently memorable plotline, cast of beloved, compelling characters that practically beg for a spinoff, and prime location on the reading lists of nearly every English 101 course. Jo Baker's *Longbourn* is the latest in that tradition, but suffice it to say that *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, this is not. Rather, it's an imaginative, captivatingly written, rightly reverent-but-in-no-way-derivative rewrite of what life might've been like for the people who worked as servants for the Bennet family and who experienced their own share of memorable plotlines and Austen-style interpersonal tension. Who knows, maybe this one'll get its own spinoff (or at least a spot on syllabi) some day. See Baker when she reads at Mrs. Dalloway's (2904 College Ave., Berkeley). — *E.C.*

Friday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m., free. MrsDalloways.com

PUBLIC INTEREST

Affordable Health Care Act: Your Questions Answered Learn about the Affordable Health Care Act from a certified enrollment counselor who will [illegible] enrollment with the application process. Wed., Oct. 30, 1-4 p.m. Oakland Public Library Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

Firefighter Memorial [illegible] The Oakland Fire Department hosts its Firefighter Memorial Ceremony of commemoration and pay tribute to Oakland Firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty. Thu., Oct. 24, 12 p.m. Fire Memorial Plaza, at 14th St. and Broadway, Oakland.

Money and Politics Exhibition: [illegible] Local Campaign [illegible] Panel discussion and community forum with keynote speaker Robert Stern. Additional panelists [illegible] Whitney [illegible] [illegible] of Oakland Public Ethics Commission, and [illegible] [illegible] Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Alameda. Thu., Oct. 24, 7-9 p.m., free. The Community Center at Harbor Bay Isle, 3195 Mecartney Rd., Alameda.

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After trying Rangoon Super Stars' tea leaf salad, you'll have a hard time eating an American salad. Chris Duffey

A NEW STAR IS BORN

The Burmese cuisine of Rangoon Super Stars is exemplary, but will it lift the "curse" of a Berkeley location?

By Luke Tsai

The space at 2826 Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley is what folks in the restaurant world call a "cursed" location. For various reasons — likely related to its hard-to-fill one-hundred-seat dining room and its location in a kind of No Man's Land between Temescal and UC Berkeley — it has been home to a revolving door of restaurants, including, most recently, Ongen, Locanda da Eva, and Maritime East, none of which lasted a year.

But with the arrival of Rangoon Super Stars, there are reasons to feel hopeful. Whereas you could always find better versions of those earlier concepts (farm-to-table, Italian, seafood, respectively) elsewhere in the East Bay, Rangoon is one of only a couple of Burmese restaurants in the area. More importantly, chef-owner Win Aye is serving better, more exciting exemplars of that cuisine — with its mix of Chinese, Indian, and Thai influences — than anyone else on this side of the bay. It's food worth making a trek for.

Aye, a native of Burma's former capital city of Rangoon (aka Yangon), was the opening chef at both the Alameda and Oakland locations of Burma Superstar and went on to help open Rangoon Ruby in Palo Alto and San Carlos before venturing out on his own. Rangoon Super Stars — a name choice that must, at the very least, be a source of mild irritation for Aye's former employers — opened about two months ago with one of those dauntingly lengthy Asian restaurant menus in which the sheer number of choices can be paralyzing.

My advice: Get a soup and a salad. Regardless of what else you might order, chances are your meal will be off to a great start.

That might seem like an odd recommendation; after all, Asian cuisines are not known for their salads. But salads — colorful, multi-textured — are one of the hallmarks of Burmese cuisine. In the US, tea leaf salad is probably the most well-known Burmese dish, and Rangoon Super Star's version didn't disappoint: a sizeable platter filled with nuts and seeds of various shapes and sizes, crunchy fried garlic, tomatoes, romaine lettuce (Aye's one concession to Western salad constructs), dark-green fermented tea leaves (*lahpet*), dried shrimp powder (for an extra jolt of umami), and other ingredients, each in its own little pile, everything mixed together tableside with a squeeze of fresh lemon juice.

Rangoon Super Stars
2826 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley
510-647-9744
Hours: Daily 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 5-10 p.m.
Reservations accepted
Cash, all major credit cards.

Sample Menu

Palata	$7.99
Tea Leaf Salad	$10.99
Mohk Hingar	$10.99
Vegan Samusa Soup	$10.99
Egg and Okra Curry	$10.99

The key ingredient is, of course, the tea leaves, which Aye said are a daily staple in Burmese households, where they're often eaten as a snack, garnished with just a sprinkling of sesame seeds. When using the tea leaves in this kind of elaborate salad, most restaurants (Burma Superstar included) process them into a fine puree that's diluted with oil. Aye, on the other hand, serves his tea leaves whole, so the flavor — musky, earthy, pungent — is that much more intense. After one taste of a salad like this, you'll have a hard time going back to plain old American-style tossed salads.

The Rangoon Rainbow Salad, which featured four different kinds of noodles, wonton crisps, and cubes of fried tofu, was another successful melding of contrasting flavors and textures — something crunchy and something soft in every bite. As with the tea leaf salad, this is the kind of cool, refreshing dish that's enjoyable any time of year, but it especially hit the spot during the recent warm weather.

My favorite dish, however, was the *mohk hingar*, a pureed catfish chowder, wherein the mashed-up flesh from a whole boiled catfish is added to an aromatic, slightly spicy broth, serving as both thickener and flavoring agent. Again, the textures made the dish — the soft, eminently slurpable rice noodles; the richness of the yolk from a sliced hard-boiled egg; and an appealing crunch from pieces of fried mung-bean cake. Most unusual were the thin, crunchy slivers of a heavily peppered vegetable, which I later learned was the sliced-up core of a banana plant trunk.

Meanwhile, the *samusa* soup, which featured a well-spiced lentil base and large chunks of potato-filled fried *samusas* (think Indian *samosas*), was also excellent. The *samusas* were still crispy, and the thick, chowder-like broth had more depth of flavor and was less salty than the version at Burma Superstar.

Aside from soups and salads, the other must-order appetizer is the *palata*, a kind of multi-layered pan-fried flatbread, served with coconut chicken curry for dipping, that's similar to a dish you'll often see at Malaysian and Indonesian restaurants. Rangoon Super Stars' rendition was stellar, perhaps the best I've had. The bread itself was crisp-edged, flaky, and delicate; the mellow curry was packed with tender thigh meat and had just the right amount of sweetness.

On the other hand, while the entrees were enjoyable, I found them less interesting than the soups, salads, and appetizers — which, incidentally, would make a perfectly fine meal on their own. Again, because the menu is vast, and because many of the item descriptions list similar ingredient combinations, choosing an entree felt a bit like throwing darts blindfolded. We wound up ordering an assortment of red curry dishes that blurred together in my memory: They all had a similar onion-garlic-tamarind base and a vaguely sweet-and-sour flavor profile. Still, each dish had some element of intrigue: The yellow tofu featured "tofu" made from yellow mung beans, yielding a texture akin to the insides of a fried chickpea fritter. Lemon juice and mint helped perk up an otherwise forgettable lamb *kobee* stir-fry. And the egg and okra curry had the sweetness of caramelized onions and the added textural interest of a deep-fried hard-boiled egg.

If anything, the kitchen seemed to be holding back the spice, perhaps out of fear of upsetting Western diners. Of course, that kind of sensitivity to local dining habits has its benefits — for instance, there are vegetarian versions available for many of the dishes on the menu.

All said, it's still hard to tell whether Rangoon Super Stars will be able to reverse its location's curse. If it doesn't, it won't be because of the food, which is lovely, interesting, and speaks volumes all by itself. ●

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WHAT THE FORK

THE BAY AREA'S FIRST SOUL FOOD TRUCK?

Plus: Oakland nonprofits host Food Day celebrations

By Luke Tsai

The Bay Area is home to food trucks that specialize in Eritrean-Irish fusion cuisine, Hong Kong-style egg tarts and curry fish balls, and tacos of every conceivable ethnic origin, among countless others. So it's somewhat amazing to consider that Oakland resident Kenny Stuckey's new venture, Kenny's Heart & Soul, may become the first soul food truck in the Bay Area.

While there's a mobile soul food trailer in San Francisco and a handful of trucks that serve soul-food fusion concepts — i.e., twists on Southern-style grits or chicken and waffles — Stuckey said he wasn't aware of any truck that specializes in "strictly soul food."

Straight up Southern soul food is precisely what Stuckey, a first-time food entrepreneur, plans to introduce to the Bay Area: a street food menu of fried chicken, collard greens, potato salad, black-eyed peas, smothered steak, barbecued ribs, and more.

As for why there aren't other food trucks that specialize in the cuisine, Stuckey said he believes it's largely a matter of economics. Most notably, a new, fully equipped food truck often costs around $100,000. That initial barrier to entry, combined with the fact that soul food is a notoriously labor-intensive cuisine (and one that might seem less obviously lucrative than other trendier food concepts), likely makes it cost-prohibitive for many.

Stuckey and his business partner have already purchased a truck, but still need to outfit it with a full kitchen. The project will cost upwards of $65,000 to complete, which is why a year after Stuckey first started planning Kenny's Heart & Soul, the truck has yet to become a reality.

But even though a recently concluded $20,000 Kickstarter campaign fell well short of reaching its target, Stuckey said he hopes the truck will be able to hit the road within the next couple of months. He said he'll likely launch a new campaign on IndieGoGo, and is in talks with a number of private investors. Plus, Stuckey has applied for a $50,000 loan from the Oakland Business Development Corporation.

In the meantime, you can try Stuckey's food at a number of recurring pop-ups in Oakland. Every first Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Stuckey serves a full soul food menu outside the East Bay Church of Religious Science (4130 Telegraph Ave.). And twice a month — on First Fridays, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., and every third Saturday from noon to 4:30 p.m. — he does a chicken fry at the Sacred Wheel Cheese and Specialty Market (4935 Shattuck Ave.).

Stuckey's wings are big and juicy. Luke Tsai

I had a chance to sample Stuckey's chicken wings at a recent First Friday pop-up. Priced at $3.50 apiece, they're huge, three-bone specimens — "pterodactyl wings," as Stuckey called them. He seasons the wings with a proprietary spice blend, brines them, and dusts them with just a little bit of flour before dropping them in the deep-fryer. "I really think that people should get chicken and not batter," he explained. They're good, juicy wings.

The next Sacred Wheel chicken fry will happen from noon to 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 26 — the fourth Saturday of the month instead of the third, in order to coincide with a party that the cheese shop will be throwing.

Food Day 2013

First celebrated in 1975, Food Day was conceived by the Washington, DC-based Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) as an Earth Day-like holiday designed to increase public awareness about the most pressing food-related issues of the time: the danger of exposing children to too much sugar, the environmental impact of large-scale agricultural practices, the threat that corporate farming posed to small family farmers, among others.

Given the fact that many of those issues continue to loom large, it's no surprise that CSPI decided to reinstate Food Day — which only lasted a few years in its first incarnation — in 2011. According to Lisa Snelkova, CSPI's Food Day campaign manager, the idea was to unify the sustainable food movement with all of its separate submovements — organic food, Slow Food, food access, etc. — under one platform.

Held on Thursday, October 24, this year's event will focus on food education, Snelkova said. There will be Food Day celebrations at about 300 university campuses, including UC Berkeley, which will host cooking demonstrations and tastings of local foods from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Upper Sproul Plaza.

In Oakland, the Jack London Square Farmers' Market and Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association are putting together a Food Day Pop-Up and Beer Garden that will take place on Sunday, October 27, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Old Oakland's La Borinqueña Mexicatessen (582 7th St.). Organizer Sarah Trent told What the Fork that the event will feature an organic vegetable stand, mobile food vendors, and food artisans from Kitchener Oakland, and a local chef will be on hand to demonstrate how to use less-familiar items of seasonal produce. Beer will be provided by Linden Street Brewery and Almanac Beer Co. Proceeds from beer sales will benefit the association's Market Match program, which gives food stamp recipients extra money to buy fresh produce at participating farmers' markets. ■

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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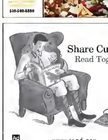

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Burmese and Thai

Anchalee
1094, 1030 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 510-848-4015. Maybe it's the leafy green shade on the walls or the Zen fountain's gentle gurgle, but you get the feeling of a soothing negative-ion blast upon entering this Thai eatery in the heart of what has become known as Berkeley's Left Bank. The most crowd-pleasing: *kanom pak kard* (steamed radish cakes) and *popiah* (crispy vegetable rolls) are two small plates of note, and the tasty pad Thai steers clear of that glommed-together noodle effect. Lovers of fried banana should try Anchalee's version, served with a generous helping of coconut ice cream. $$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine
Location varies, mobile, 510-619-9196. With an energy that makes you sweaty just watching, Andy Siackowicz and Cindy Yang show up at area farmers' markets to dish out plate of vegetarian Thai food fresh-tasting enough to belie its chafing-dish origins. Free-range chicken in coconut milk curry has plenty of meat chew, while TVP-filled egg rolls return a near-miraculous crunch. The sweetness of the tofu curry can seem ham-handed, but fish steamed in a banana leaf sheath has a definite sense of polish — just about the last thing you'd expect on a disposable plate. (At the Downtown Berkeley Farmers' Market and Grand Lake Farmers' Market on Saturday, West Berkeley Farmers' Market on Tuesday, and Temescal Farmers' Market on Sunday. Call or see website for details.) $

Bua Luang
1166 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-527-8288. A little slot of a place, but far nicer than a proper hole in the wall, this Thai restaurant exudes an earnest honesty that gives diners the feeling they've been invited home for a meal. And, as happens at a home-cooked meal, surprising ingredients such as avocado and pumpkin tend to pop up. Curried salmon is a definite success. $

Burma Superstar
4721 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-2900; 1345 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-6200. Its trendiness means that you'll quite likely wait for a table. And once you get inside, this restaurant's cooly dark design is all hard surfaces, with no softness to absorb sound, so sometimes you can hardly hear yourself talking. But, Burma Superstar sells ravishingly lovely food: wholesome, often delightfully startling ingredients in whopping portions, flaunting hypnotic addictive flavors and bold textures that are revolutionarily unlike anything that most of us have ever tried before. (Because Burma borders on India, Thailand, and China, its cuisine combines all three.) Tea-leaf salad, Burma Superstar's signature dish, comprises peanuts, hot green pepper shards, fried chickpeas, fried garlic, sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, tomato, lettuce, and a mossy mountain of fermented tea leaves — actually gathered in Myanmar — that swathe the salty snappy melange in dark, almost fishy pickledness. Another version of nirvana is the vegetarian samusa soup: thick, curry-yellow and studded with soft fried doughy pouches stuffed in turn with spicy vegetables. $$

Cha Am
1543 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-9664. *Express* readers' frequent choice for Best Southeast Asian Restaurant, this upstairs nook has had its ups and downs both in terms of food and service. On good days its vegetarian *pad Thai* is abundant and sweet, while a seafood-rich menu offers lots of possibilities, such as curried prawns. A blend of fresh Thai herbs goes into every dish. $-$$

Chai Thai Noodle
545 E International Blvd., Oakland, 510-832-2500. Thai House Express veterans Sangchai Vatmarkin and Amnuay Manyvong set up here on International Boulevard in 2008, serving a mix of dishes from central Thailand and further north. *Ka moo* — braised pork leg with five spice and sweet soy — should find a place on every carnivore's table. Much of the rest of the menu is bright-tasting and easy to like, and above all accessible for non-Thais. The chicken larb, for instance, is a pile of perfumed ground meat that doesn't challenge, and while *chan pad poo* (Dungeness crab noodles) might not be something you'd encounter in Thailand, if it tastes good, who cares? $

Green Papaya Deli
207 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-839-5557. This tiny, friendly International Boulevard eatery prepares and serves some of the Bay Area's brightest, tastiest Lao cuisine: a duck *larb* (salad) brisk with both herbs and lime, intensely flavored chopped catfish steamed in banana leaves; chicken noodle soup fragrant with ginger, chilies, and coconut; sausages made of fermented raw pork and lemongrass, onions, and peppers. There are Thai specialties as well (the beef *pad kee mao* with thick noodles is especially satisfying), and don't forget to order plenty of sticky rice, a Laotian requirement. No lagers, but the sweet, creamy soy milk and Thai iced coffee are worth ordering. $

Hawker Fare
2300 Webster St., Oakland, 510-832-8896. At Commis, James Syhabout presides over deceptively complex dishes juxtaposing subtle shades of flavor. At Hawker Fare, he cooks the kind of food he likes to unwind with after clocking twelve hours in the fine-dining mill. Syhabout — who grew up in Oakland, and whose family has roots in Northeast Thailand — has compiled a short list of Asian rice bowls with the kind of uncompromising flavors he recalls from his mom's kitchen, executed with the tools of a Michelin-starred kitchen (hint: the immersion circulator never stops whirring), like long-cooked pork belly and a Northern Thai version of Hainanese chicken rice. $-$$

Krung Thep
11224 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-235-9316. Tiny, friendly Krung Thep makes a great alternative to the chain restaurants in the El Cerrito Plaza. Most of the charm comes from the owners, who know how to treat regular customers. The appetizers and salads often excel, as do the curries — but skip the dry meat meals. $-$$

Old Weang Ping Village
4017 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-430-8771. This funky thatched-roof restaurant, which looks like a cross between a beachside hut and a 1950s diner, offers rustic, forthright food that's far more appealing than the sugar- and coconut-drowned fare you'll find at most Thai restaurants. Mix and match your favorite meats, veggies, and sauces from the menu, or order off the specials board. $$

Plearn
1923 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-9999. Amid silvery elegance, diners expand their curry-and-coconut horizons. Highlights include sliced barbecued beef served atop fresh mint leaves; lime-seasoned calamari, and a range of soups and noodle dishes redolent of lemongrass and five-alarm chilis. Pictures of Tiger Woods near the cash register are there because the owner knows the golfer's mom. $$

Ran Kanom Thai
3288 Pierce St., Richmond, 510-524-5559. At most Thai restaurants, non-Thai diners are pretty much limited to dishes that have been muffled or otherwise dumbed down, but at this takeout food shop in the Pacific East Mall, Bangkok-born owner Salukjnee Ekdhit is cooking primarily for an Asian clientele, meaning that her heat-at-home curries, green papaya salad, five-spice pork hock, and sticky-rice sweets present flavors more vivid, funkier, less sugary, and spicier than you find with most American Thai food.

RECENTLY REVIEWED

Grease Box
942 Stanford Ave., Oakland, 510-066-4300 or GreaseBoxOakland.com: Ever since chef-owner Larry Boelter was diagnosed with celiac disease, she'd been frustrated with the quality of the food marketed toward the gluten-intolerant. So, when Boelter opened Grease Box, she wanted it to be a place where the food was, as the restaurant's website puts it, "gluten free, grain free, weird shit free, locally and sustainably sourced, and AWESOME." She wanted to serve the unapologetically deep-fried, gut-busting cuisine of her native Louisiana, but healthier in a way that would highlight local, seasonal produce. Her signature dish is skillet-fried chicken, which is excellent by any standard, with a shatteringly crisp, deep-walnut-brown batter shell and meat so juicy that it practically gushes when you bite in. But there are other pleasures to be had at Grease Box: tender slow-smoked brisket and ribs; a classic grilled cheese sandwich served on house-baked gluten-free bread; and a bountiful selection of seasonal vegetable sides. $-$$

Taco Grill
3340 East 12th St., Ste. 11, Oakland, 510-534-3750: Straddling the line between conscientious ingredient sourcing and traditional down-home flavors, this small taqueria serves some of the best Mexican food in Oakland. Unlike many of the traditional Mexican restaurants in Fruitvale, Taco Grill uses organic Niman Ranch pork and beef and Mary's Free Range chicken, but there's also nothing frou frou or fusion-y about the carnitas or the house-made chorizo. The quality of the meats and the care with which they're prepared make the crispy tacos and other standard taqueria items well worth ordering. Taco Grill's other distinguishing feature is the fact that it offers a wide selection of soups, each with its own distinct character. In particular, the restaurant specializes in the rich, toasty, hominy-laden soup known as pozole: red, green, and white versions, each one available with slow-cooked pork shoulder or tender-on-the-bone chicken. $

Homestead
4029 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-420-6962: When Elizabeth and Fred Sassen were planning their first restaurant, the husband-and-wife team drew inspiration from Elizabeth's grandparents, who, as original homesteaders, had to muster all their pioneer work ethic and from-scratch food preparation know-how just to survive that first winter on the frontier. At Homestead, the Sassens not only produce a wide variety of charcuterie, they also preserve the tomatoes, dry the chili peppers, and make their own vinegars and cheeses. The DIY approach pays off in something as simple as the tub of delicious house-churned salted butter that starts your meal, and the wedge of house-made ricotta that forms the base of an antipasto spread. The centerpiece of the farm-to-table restaurant is a custom-designed wood-burning hearth, in which the Sassens char seasonal vegetables and roast and grill large hunks of meat, imbuing dishes with a deep, lovely smokiness. $$$

Tian Jin Dumplings
989 Franklin St., Ste. B, Oakland, 510-451-1165: Tian Jin Dumplings, a takeout window in Oakland's Chinatown that specializes in dumplings and other northern Chinese snacks, or "small eats," has more in common with a street stall than a full-service restaurant. But what the place lacks in amenities and breadth of offerings it makes up for in good old-fashioned deliciousness. In particular, the juicy, delicate handmade dumplings — available in two standard pork-and-vegetable varieties, as well as several unconventional versions that need to be ordered in advance — are probably the best in the East Bay. A shaobing (savory baked biscuit) stuffed with a smoked boiled egg makes for a tasty $1 breakfast "sandwich." And the "pancake fruit" — a large, savory, egg-coated crepe filled with Chinese fried cruller, crunchy pickled mustard stems, and fresh cilantro — is the perfect thing to warm you up on a chilly morning. $

Oh, and many of the ingredients Ekelot uses are organic, making Ran Kanom practically unique. Don't miss the jars of Ekelot's hand-pounded red curry paste and nam prik, including one flavored with mengdana, a type of cockroach. $

SaWadDee Thai Restaurant
12200 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-232-5542: Kids will love the Thai-style tables, but their parents will appreciate its grilled meats, fragrant salads, and rich curries — the kind of fare that has made Thai cuisine the Bay Area's favorite comfort food. SaWadDee's sour and hot tom yum is one of the best in the area, and its salty-sweet sticky rice with mango is the perfect finish for the meal. $-$$

SOI4 Bangkok Eatery
5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-0889: As its name suggests, SOI4 serves high-concept Thai cuisine for the high-cheekbone crowd. Luckily the food is more affordable than you would infer from the chic room. Stick with the sautéed dishes and salads — the beef short ribs and vegetable dishes are great. Curries, however tend toward the insipid. Finish off your meal with primo frozen desserts. $$

Thai Delight Cuisine
1700 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-0211: Organic Thai food? Only in North Berkeley. Thai Delight's chef-owner has created a small organic menu — with slightly higher prices — to supplement her reasonably priced regular menu of familiar Thai entrées. The food tends toward the sugary but it's fresh and well prepared, and the service is friendly and competent. A plus: The tables are spread far enough apart for you to hear your conversation, not everyone else's. $-$$

Tuk Tuk Thai Cafe
2400-2408 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-6300: A tuk tuk is a tiny, rickety Bangkok cab, and you'll find one smack-dab in the middle of this large and brightly lit restaurant. Not too sweet, not dumbed-down for an American audience, the curries here are oily and obviously made from scratch, not from the can. Also great are the lime-blasted salads and the grilled meats. Wash it all down with young coconut water sipped straight from the fruit. Plus it's open long after everyone else in downtown Berkeley closes. $-$$

Wat Mongkolratanaram
1911 Russell St., Berkeley, 510-849-3419: Every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., this Thai Buddhist temple serves brunch to the public. You'll find steam-table sautéed dishes and prepared spring rolls, but also made-to-order papaya salads, fried chicken with sticky rice, and a group of warm, funny temple members dishing out the food. Don't pass up foods you can't find in restaurants, such as the lemongrass and chile-flecked sausage and the amazing coconut milk custard pancakes. A little-known but phenomenal Berkeley institution. $

Price Key
Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately: $ — up to $10 per person; $$ — $10-$25; $$$ — $25-$50; $$$$ — more than $50.

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Ooh a Night at Rosamunde Sausage Night of music, beer and Rosamunde's education and at the market [illegible] sausage. Sat., Oct. 26, 6-8 p.m. Rosamunde Sausage Grill, 911 Washington St., Oakland, RosamundeSausageGrill.com.

Mendoza Pizza and Bottomless Wine Frisbee deep-dish pizza and bottomless wine, including a featured wine from Mi Terruño with owner-master Ruggeria from Mendoza, Argentina. Tue., Oct. 29, 5:30 p.m. $25 in [illegible], $40 at the door. Little Star Pizza, 1175 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-7827, LittleStarPizza.com.

Col. Market Food Market Featuring food trucks, meat, cars, and other vendors — including Bombzies BBQ, Peter's Pickle Cart, Mustache Millers, Kasa Indian, Kao Kao [illegible] Filipino comfort foods, and Beulah a Bean Truck (coffee and dog treats). Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. College of Alameda, 555 Atlantic Ave., Alameda, 510-522-7221, Alameda.Peralta.edu.

Hands-On Science at the Farmers' Market Cal scientists demonstrate hands-on investigations at East Bay farmers' markets during the Bay Area Science Festival. Sat., Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Downtown Berkeley Farmers' Market, Center St. (between Milvia St. and Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley, 510-548-3333. Tue., Oct. 29, 2-6 p.m. South Berkeley Farmers' Market, Adeline and 63rd sts., Berkeley, 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Wed., Oct. 30, 3-8 p.m. Albany Farmers' Market, [illegible] at Solano Market and [illegible] San Pablo Avenue, Albany.

Blind Lies Brewery with Hangar 24 Meet the brewers at Hangar 24 during Beer Revolution's annual Halloween party. With seasonal Market and music. Sat., Oct. 26, 6 p.m. Free. Revolution, 464 3rd St., Oakland, 510-452-2337, BeerRevolution.com.

Off and Gold With food trucks, music, art for sale, baked 'Nola' activities and half-price museum. Downtown Fridays, 5-9 p.m. Free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland, 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

Pop-Up Dinner at Cafe la Peña Bon Moda Spanish Cuisine & Cultural, a filled-up Peruvian food vegetables in paella and Spanish influenced cuisine. Blind a [illegible] dinner. Sat., Oct. 26, 5:30 p.m. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

Fresh Tour Imperial a tasting of pork from a barrage of farmers who make up Oakland's shared [illegible]. Oct. 26, 2-6 p.m. $65. [illegible] 11th St., Oakland.

Russian Imperial Stout Festival Celebration of Russian Imperial stouts and Terry Fondo will be making a Rockwood [illegible] made Flanders, a hearty beer aged with Imperial Stout and prepared. Thu., Oct. 24, 6 p.m. The Trappist, 460 8th St., Oakland, 510-238-8900, TheTrappist.com.

Mad Reading Steam Marin and others gathering where participants are asked to bring a paragraph or a few words they and read [illegible] and hearty Wine and cocktail prepared by the Musical making's chef Erin Schaeffer. Tue., Oct. 29, 6-8 p.m. $40. University Berkeley, 2430 [illegible] Way, Berkeley, 510-848-[illegible].

Market Food Tuesdays With Soul Soul-inspired small food, offered in a Revolution setting. Tuesdays, $8-$18. 800-551-7266. Paragon chocolate, 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-549-8585, ParagonRestaurant.com.

Tajine: Moroccan Pop-Up Night With Moroccan meal prepared by chef Zouhair Fareen. Every other Thursday, 6-10 p.m. Guerilla Cafe, 1620 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-2233, GuerillaCafe.com.

Vintage Berkeley Wines Tasting To Go Blind for $5 at both the Vine St. and College Ave. stores. Check their Facebook earlier in the day for details on what blends will be poured that day. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m., $5. Vintage Berkeley, 2113 Vine St., Berkeley, 510-665-8600.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free, PCFMA.com. Alameda Farmers' Market, Haight Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

BAHIA Farm Fresh Choice Community Seasonal Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m., free, 510-848-2754, EcologyCenter.org. Bay Area Hispano Institute for Advancement, 1718 Eighth St., Berkeley, 510-525-1463, BAHIAinc.com.

UCB Farm Fresh Market Community Farmers Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m., free, 510-843-1764, EcologyCenter.org. Berkeley Youth Alternatives, 1255 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-848-9000, FFC-Online.org.

Fruitvale Farmers' Market With locally grown and prepared fruit, vegetables, baked products, and more produce. WIC and EBT Services. Sundays 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free, 510-535-6929. Fruitvale BART Station, 3401 East 12th St., Oakland.

Grand Lake Farmers' Market The weekly market hosts more than 75 produce, prepared foods, and arts and crafts vendors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free, 800-897-3276, [illegible]. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland, 510-236-2376, [illegible].

Hayward City Hall Farmers' Market A farmers' market featuring locally grown and produced foods from more than 35 farmers and specialty food purveyors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free, 800-897-3276, AgricultureInstitute.org. Hayward City Hall, 777 B St., Hayward, 510-583-4000, [illegible].

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market With certified locally grown fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free, PCFMA.com. Kaiser Oakland, 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a nursery, fresh flowers, an organic chocolatier, and products, fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, market foods, cheeses, fresh pasta and seasonal supplies. The market also hosts live music and entertainment. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free, 510-847-0851, KensingtonFarmersMarket.org. Colusa Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Montclair Village Farmers' Market Featuring organic produce and prepared foods. Free parking in Village garage at the top of La Salle Avenue. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free, MontclairVillage.com/farmers-market.html. Downtown Montclair Village, LaSalle and Moraga Aves., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market With cheeses, prepared foods, all-organic produce, and more for sale, along with special programs and events. WIC and EBT accepted. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free, 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

Oakland Children's Hospital Farmers' Market EBT and WIC okay. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free, 510-[illegible], [illegible].org. Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, 747 52nd St., Oakland.

Oakland [illegible] Market With a healthy mix and commercial market, seasonal organic produce, baked goods and market goods. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free, [illegible]. Saturday Seasonal Market [illegible] Ave., Oakland.

Old Oakland Farmers' Market Seasonal produce market with fish and other organic foods, along with plenty of prepared. Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Old Oakland Farmers' Market, 9th St. between Broadway and Clay St., Oakland, [illegible].

Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Jack London Square With premium produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked bread, produce, cut flowers, specialty foods, live music and activities for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free, PCFMA.com. Jack London Square, Webster and Water St., Oakland.

Richmond Farmers' Market With fresh, locally grown fruit, live Farmers' flowers, WIC and other Farmers. WIC and SNAP programs. Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., free, RichmondFarmersMarket.org. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. and Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Richmond Main Street Farmers' Market With fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, flowers, and a range of crafts, agricultural and culinary [illegible] local farmers. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues through Oct. 30, and 510-236-4033, RichmondMainStreet.org. Nevin Plaza, 11th Street and Nevin Avenue, Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh and organic produce, cheeses, prepared foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free, 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-981-5136, [illegible].

South Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh produce and more for sale. Tuesdays, 2-6:30 p.m. South Berkeley Farmers' Market, Adeline and 63rd sts., Berkeley, 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org.

Temescal Farmers' Market California certified farmers offer seasonal produce, fruits and nuts, fresh foods, eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, seasonal flowers, and more. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free, 510-745-7100. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday South Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free, 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Tuesday and also Farmers' Market, at Adeline and 63rd streets, Berkeley, 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org.

West Oakland Farm Stand The fresh farm stand [illegible] produce from [illegible] and other urban gardens, along with bulk dry goods and nutrition-related products. At [illegible] Blvd., Oakland. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free, [illegible].

PICK

Nerd Nite @ Sea II

Quaff beer and eat bugs (and/or burgers) while learning about asteroids, solar cars, seaweed, algal blooms, fixed-wing drones, and why some people can "taste" colors, numbers, and words at Nerd Nite @ Sea II. Part of the third annual *Bay Area Science Festival*, the event at the *USS Hornet Museum* (707 W Hornet Ave. #3, Alameda) will feature speakers including astronaut Rusty Schweickart, space-race historian Megan Prelinger, and synesthesia expert Ryan Alvarez. This year's "science beer" was crafted by Fat Brew Labs after last year's Nerd Nite attendees sampled various yeasts and picked their favorite: Golden Four Belgian. Three food trucks — Koja Kitchen, Fist of Flour, and Seoulburger — will be on hand, as will edible insects courtesy of Don Bugito and KQED. — *Anneli Rufus*

Wednesday, Oct. 30, 6-10 p.m., $27.50. BayAreaScience.org

LEAKS

The political kind (*The Fifth Estate*) and the nautical variety (*All Is Lost*)

By Kelly Vance

The Fifth Estate fails to tie up one of the world's most complicated issues into a neat, digestible package.

Since *The Fifth Estate* is the second movie this year — after Alex Gibney's documentary *We Steal Secrets* — to profile WikiLeaks and its guiding light, Julian Assange, we have to ask whether it's bringing anything new to the discussion.

"Discussion," because the life and times of the Australian-born international journalist/provocateur Assange and his monumentally influential newsgathering organization are really more of an ongoing debate than a cinematic narrative. Filmmaker Bill Condon, working from a screenplay that collates two books on the subject — one by former WikiLeaks insider Daniel Domscheit-Berg, the other by reporters David Leigh and Luke Harding — does his best to tie up one of the world's most complicated issues in a neat, digestible package. He fails (almost anyone would fail), but does so in a way that arguably segues the riddle of Assange the quintessential "international man of mystery" into the realm of such questions as: Who owns the truth? and, Which is more powerful, the state or the people?

Assange, played as an adult by character actor Benedict Cumberbatch (*Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, *Atonement*), is revealed to be a loner with a grudge against authority figures dating from his childhood. Through the words of one of his earliest comrades, German techno-activist Domscheit-Berg (portrayed by actor Daniel Brühl from *Rush*), we learn that Assange was raised in a cult and obliged to dye his hair white like the other cultists. From there the story fast-forwards to that day in 2007 in Berlin when Berg — before he marries his skeptical girlfriend Anke Domscheit (Alicia Vikander) — first met Assange at a hackers' convention. Until then, WikiLeaks, later described as "a huge media empire that's accountable to no one," was one solitary restless man with a penchant for outing secrets. It was as if he had sprung from underneath a Melbourne shrub determined to use the power of the Internet to bring down anyone — banks, armed forces, governments — who betrays the public trust, like some sort of white-haired magic gnome.

Director Condon, a workmanlike mover of people in such mismatched projects as *Kinsey*, *Dreamgirls*, and two of the *Twilight* films, huffs and puffs along in his subject's wake, relying on screen-capture montages to replicate the blizzard of damaging data Assange unleashes. WikiLeaks staffers are not the golden merry pranksters of *The Social Network*'s Facebook. For one thing, American and Russian spies are stalking them. The "Collateral Murder" video and the Afghan War Logs are matters of life and death for sources and the subjects of top-secret memos. Nervous US State Department officials Sarah Shaw (Laura Linney) and James Boswell (Stanley Tucci) would be overjoyed if Assange were to suddenly disappear. On the other hand, muckraking reporters like the UK *Guardian*'s Nick Davies (David Thewlis) view Assange as an inspiration. Imagine if all those bastards who have been getting away with murder were finally made to pay. Leakers and whistleblowers all over the world thrill to WikiLeaks.

Cumberbatch brings to his role the combination of a revolutionary's solemn zeal and an essential quixotic whimsicality. In some sense, Assange "is" in the same way as a movie star or a religious figure — the fact that he tries and performs wonders justifies every believer's expectations, despite the dawning realization that anyone, if he or she wants to, can be his or her own WikiLeaks. Brühl's Domscheit-Berg, seduced then abandoned then re-upped and finally fed up, functions as the necessary lens through which we can see beyond Assange's aura. Unlike Assange, Domscheit-Berg permits himself doubts about the mission at hand. He and WikiLeaks ally Marcus (Moritz Bleibtreu) are finally afraid of their project's implications and all too aware of Assange's human failings. The movie runs out of gas but the news story, the only one that WikiLeaks can't report, the one about a whistleblower in front of every computer screen, has legs that won't quit. One day we'll probably have the chance to attend a WikiLeaks film festival and compare how various filmmakers have treated the phenomenon. The impulse to tell the truth is bigger than two Hollywood movies.

A lone sailor fights for his life after his sailboat springs a leak in the middle of the Indian Ocean. That's the concept of *All Is Lost*, an extremely exciting action-adventure written and directed by J.C. Chandor (*Margin Call*). The film is exciting not only as its tale of perseverance and courage in the face of unforgiving nature and bad luck, but because it throws away almost everything that usually makes a big-budget Hollywood movie of this type viable.

There's no one on board the *Virginia Jean* when it bumps into a floating container of athletic shoes, 1,700 miles west of the Sumatra Straits except the skipper, played by Robert Redford. No one to fall in love with during a break in the action. No one to yell orders to. No one to even converse with — the waterlogged radio goes dead early on. We never even learn the sailor's name because he refuses to talk to himself like Tom Hanks. The movie is just a series of actions and reactions based on staying alive when your boat sinks and you're left utterly alone on the deep. There's nothing anywhere more important than that.

It's easy to hypothesize that Chandor's movie might never have gotten made without the presence of someone as "bankable" as Redford. It has the tone of those stripped-down European indie nail-biters, like the Danish film *A Hijacking* earlier this year, in which there's no movie star to distract us from the task at hand. At any rate, we soon forget that we're looking at the iconic star of *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and instead watch intently as he fashions a condensation tent to collect drinking water, lashes together a life raft, etc. Sure, once or twice we notice that even at 77 years of age, the impossibly handsome Redford resembles an Eddie Bauer model in distress. But there are all those sharks to contend with.

The best thing about open-sea survival movies like *Dead Calm*, the magnificent *Abandon Ship* with Tyrone Power, Hitchcock's *Lifeboat*, or even the otherwise disappointing *Life of Pi*, is the immensity of the opponent. If it's done right — and *All Is Lost* certainly is — the ordeal envelops us with each roll of the waves. ●

Kelly.Vance@EastBayExpress.com

The Fifth Estute

Directed by Bill Condon. With Benedict Cumberbatch and Daniel Brühl. Now playing.

All Is Lost

Written and directed by J.C. Chandor. With Robert Redford. Opens Friday

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Zaineb.Mohammed@EastBayExpress.com

OPENING

All Is Lost Just a lone man (septuagenarian Robert Redford) around a sinking [illegible] in the middle of the ocean, and we [illegible] try to survive. [illegible] J.C. Chandor's [illegible] [illegible] adventure, [illegible] of all [illegible] and [illegible] character study, played by Redford at full [illegible] but silently, with virtually no dialogue. We don't even learn the skipper's name. But we discover what he's made of. A certain [illegible] of masterpiece, by writer-director Chandor (*Margin Call*), with all the spectacular [illegible] of action [illegible] [illegible] (107 min.) (K.V.)

The Counselor A successful lawyer (Michael Fassbender) gets in over his head when he decides to dabble in the drug trade. (111 min.)

Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa Irascible Irving Zisman (Johnny Knoxville) and his young and impressionable grandson Billy (Jackson Nicoll) set out on a road trip across America. Hidden cameras capture their bizarre and shocking encounters with a diverse set of unsuspecting citizens, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] from a children's beauty pageant, mourners at a funeral, [illegible] patrons at a biker bar and more. Based on the Jackass TV series. (92 min.)

Linsanity He's Taiwanese-American, raised in Palo Alto, Harvard. [illegible] He knocked around the fringes of the NBA before exploding into pro basketball stardom in 2012 with the New York Knicks. Now Jeremy Lin is a [illegible] phenomenon and this [illegible] documentary [illegible] by [illegible] [illegible] lays out the official story of Lin and his "[illegible]" powers. "Don't fit the mold," [illegible] [illegible] basketball fans will [illegible] against all odds [illegible] and their [illegible] [illegible], but there's no denying Lin's popularity. [illegible] story (90 min.) (K.V.)

The Metropolitan Opera: The Nose [illegible] composed by Dmitri Shostakovich in which the nose of a St. Petersburg official leaves his face and develops a life of its own. (135 min.)

Return of the Living Dead [illegible] The stars of Mystery Science Theater 3000 watch and riff on *Night of the Living Dead*. (127 min.)

Torn In the small fictitious East Bay community of "[illegible]," the investigation of a suspicious [illegible] bomb blast in a shopping mall food court focuses on one, then a second [illegible] boy — both of unfulfilled in the [illegible] — and [illegible] on their grieving mothers. One of the mothers is a Pakistani immigrant (played by actress/model Mahnoor Baloch in her US film debut) trying at [illegible] on all her version of the "American dream"; the other is a single mom who works offices for a living (TV regular Dominic Taylor). Both actresses, especially Taylor in hard-luck case [illegible], and of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. And director/co-writer Jeremiah Birnbaum [illegible] hit or over the head and the [illegible] story. The screenplay is a collaboration of [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible], and [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible]. (80 min.) (K.V.)

The Trials of Muhammad Ali Director Bill Siegel's first-rate documentary contribution to the growing catalogue of films on the life of the iconic heavyweight boxing champion investigates, using rare archive footage and contemporary talking heads, how Ali's choice of Islam faith and his refusal to be drafted to fight in the Vietnam war changed both his career and American society. Ali's "[illegible] years" [illegible] [illegible] are [illegible] by a rainbow of [illegible] [illegible] including his brother Rahaman Ali, *New York Times* [illegible] Robert Lipsyte, and Ali's [illegible] Khalilah Camacho-Ali. But so [illegible] the most [illegible] voice is Ali's own, in vintage [illegible] — a [illegible] [illegible] (86 min.) (K.V.)

ONGOING

20 Feet From Stardom [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] on

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James Gandolfini

Enough Said

PG-13

NOW PLAYING AT SELECT THEATRES

Jackass Presents: Bad Grampa

rain.)

The Stream A long time ago, in the summer of 1988, a tragedy of epic proportions (a broken plastic bat) sends five friends on an epic adventure to the mall. All they have to do is follow the Stream and get back. What could possibly go wrong? Encountering bullies, a nasty storm, and mystical creatures, the friends will need the bond of friendship to prevail. (90 min.)

Wadjda A rebellious Saudi girl (Waad Mohammed) enters a Koran recitation competition at her school and hopes to win enough money to buy her own bicycle. (98 min.)

The World's End The UK's Shaun of the Dead gang (director Edgar Wright, writer-actors Simon Pegg and Nick Frost) are back for an a possibly gory variation on the male-bonding comedy, as a group of middle-aged guys try to recreate the epic pub crawl of their youth. The title refers to the twelfth and last pub on the crawl, not necessarily to the much-well bagginess of Wright and Pegg's screenplay. If your idea of lowbrow entertainment is watching a squad of drunken Englishmen being chased by sinister robots with blue stuff inside them, search no more. Costarring Eddie Marsan, Paddy Considine, Martin Freeman, and Rosamund Pike (109 min.). (KV)

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

A Place at the Table (84 min., 2012). Presented by the Oakland Food Policy Council (New Parkway Theater, Oakland, 6:30)

44, or Tales of the Night (110 min., 1987). Moumen Smihi: Poet of Tangier (Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, 7:00)

Uncertain Chains (28 min., 2012). Arab Film Festival (Parkway, 7:30)

Island of Lost Souls (71 min., 1933). (The Magick Lantern, Point Richmond, 7:30)

Rosemary's Baby (136 min., 1968). ([illegible] 7, 9:00)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

When Monaliza Smiled (85 min., 2012). Arab Film Festival (Shattuck Cinemas, Berkeley, 1:00)

The Professor (92 min., 2012). Arab Film Festival (Shattuck Cinemas, 3:00)

[illegible] Man (85 min., 2012). Arab Film Festival (Shattuck Cinemas, 5:00)

Ashbar: 8 Man Cut of Rope (87 min., 2012). Arab Film Festival (Shattuck Cinemas, 7:00)

The Merchant of Four Seasons (88 min., 1971). Love Is Colder Than Death: The Cinema of Rainer Werner Fassbinder (BAM/PFA, 7:00)

Fear of Fear (88 min., 1975). Love Is Colder Than Death: The Cinema of Rainer Werner Fassbinder (BAM/PFA, 8:50)

Democracy Year Zero (114 min., 2013). (Shattuck Cinemas, 9:00)

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (100 min., 1975). (Albany Twin, midnight)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

The Three Disappearances of Soad Hosni (70 min., 2011). Arab Film Festival (Shattuck Cinemas, 1:00)

Sleepless Nights (128 min., 2012). Arab Film Festival (Shattuck Cinemas, 2:30)

Casablanca Mon Amour (77 min., 2012). Arab Film Festival (Shattuck Cinemas, 5:00)

The Decameron (111 min., 1971). Pier Paolo Pasolini (BAM/PFA, 6:30)

They Were Promised the Sea (72 min., 2012). Arab Film Festival (Shattuck Cinemas, 7:00)

The Canterbury Tales (120 min., 1972). Pier Paolo Pasolini (BAM/PFA, 8:30)

A Model Not Born (55 min., 2012). Arab Film Festival (Shattuck Cinemas, 9:30)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

[illegible] (92 min., 2013). Arab Film Festival (Shattuck Cinemas, 1:30)

The Turtle's Rage (70 min., 2012). Arab Film Festival (Shattuck Cinemas, 3:30)

The Lebanese Rocket Society (95 min., 2012). Arab Film Festival (Shattuck Cinemas, 5:00)

The Arabian Nights (128 min., 1974). Pier Paolo Pasolini (BAM/PFA, 5:00)

Bud Abbott and Lou Costello Meet Frankenstein (83 min., 1948). [illegible] Theater (Parkway, 6:00)

Tunisians Do Not Die of Old Age (82 min., 2011). Arab Film Festival (Shattuck Cinemas 7:00)

The Sorrows of a Young Tangerian (95 min., 1992). Moumen Smihi: Poet of Tangier (BAM/PFA, 7:30)

The Phantom of Paradise (92 min., 1974). (The Tannery, Berkeley, 7:30)

Al Helm: Martin Luther King in Palestine (93 min., 2013). Arab Film Festival (Shattuck Cinemas, 9:00)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

Brilliant Soil (53 min., 2013). Presented by Alameda County Healthy Indian Department and Nightsoft (La Peña Cultural Center, Berkeley, 8:00)

The Bitter Tears of Petra Von Kant (124 min., 1972). Love Is Colder Than Death: The Cinema of Rainer Werner Fassbinder (BAM/PFA, 7:00)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

The Films of Abigail Child (73 min., 1983-2013). Alternative Visions (BAM/PFA, 7:00)

Occupied Part 5 (125 min., 2013). (David Brower Center, Berkeley, 7:00)

Will the Real Terrorist Please Stand Up (80 min., 2010). (Humanist Hall, Oakland, 7:30) ■

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MON-WED: 4:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:00
THUR: 4:15, 6:15
BAD GRAMPA (R)
FRI-SUN: 2:30, 2:35, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45
MON-THUR: 5:00, 7:30, 9:45
THE FIFTH ESTATE (R)
FRI-SUN: 4:30, 7:00
MON-THUR: 4:00, 7:00
DON JON (R)
FRI-SUN: 12:00, 2:00, 9:35
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MUSIC

THE BOYS CAN SING

Oakland's Pacific Boychoir Academy takes a modern approach to its repertoire, including as much Top 40 as it does Rachmaninoff

By Whitney Phaneuf

Pacific Boychoir Academy is one of only four such schools in the country.

When Deke Sharon — the music director behind the movie *Pitch Perfect* and television singing competition *The Sing-Off* — started singing in boys' choirs at age five, The Beatles had just broken up. The San Francisco native was born and raised on traditional a cappella music, a repertoire often limited to liturgical and classical music, but in college, he helped bring the vocal style into the 21st century. Now his son, a seventh grader at Oakland's Pacific Boychoir Academy, regularly performs his arrangement of "All You Need Is Love."

"When I was in elementary school, The Beatles felt very current," Sharon said. "Now pop music is tomorrow's classical music."

Aided by Sharon's innovative arrangements, the Pacific Boychoir Academy is creating a new generation of boy choirs: one in which Gregorian chants are treated with the same reverence as indie-rock songs by Noah and the Whale. The private day school is not only unique because of its repertoire; it's also the only boychoir academy west of the Mississippi and one of four in the entire country.

Pacific Boychoir Academy started fifteen years ago as an after-school program held at a church in Montclair (the choir is non-denominational). Founder and Artistic Director Kevin Fox, a former teacher at the American Boychoir School in Princeton, New Jersey, and the choir started with six boys, but by the end of the school year it had grown to 25.

As the choir grew, so did Fox's ambitions. The boys went on their first international tour in 2001 to Australia, enabled by local fundraisers and support from parents, and appeared on recordings with the San Francisco Symphony.

In 2004, Fox established the day school, offering academics as well as musical training to boys in fourth through eighth grades. The program started with nine students and today has grown to 56, with another 100 boys ages four to eighteen participating in after-school programs. Pacific Boychoir Academy will hold an open house and recital on October 27 and auditions for its after-school choir on October 30.

In the tradition of boys' choirs, which date back to the Middle Ages, the day school is focused on training pre-pubescent boys whose voices have not yet changed to the lower ranges of tenor and bass. "It's a race against the clock," Fox said. "That's part of what makes it special."

Until recent years, singing — especially by boys — wasn't culturally hip. But television programs helped change that.

"*Glee* certainly helped because it made it cool to sing," Fox said. "If you started a girls' choir today, tomorrow you'd have three hundred members. In this country it's different for boys to — I don't know the right word — make it normal."

To date, the choir has been on fifteen international tours, all of which have taken place during the summer, and won three Grammys from its work with the San Francisco Symphony. On this year's season premiere of *America's Got Talent*, the choir performed "California Dreamin'" by The Mamas & the Papas, eliciting this response from judge Howard Stern: "I had chills from the beginning. I want to hear a million other songs from you."

While common now, choral arrangements for rock and pop songs have only recently evolved, and Sharon is widely regarded as a pioneer of the form. His arrangements for the 2012 film *Pitch Perfect* have become a mainstream phenomenon. Three songs charted on the Billboard Hot 100, and the album is one of the best-selling soundtracks of 2013.

"Twenty years ago, when you heard the word a cappella, it was a punch line — a bunch of Ivy League nerds thinking they were rock stars," Sharon said. "Now it's reached so many people and become a huge hit around the world."

Pitch Perfect, which depicts college students singing their way to a national a cappella competition, includes creative arrangements of tracks such as "Titanium" by EDM giant David Guetta; "Don't Stop the Music," which was popularized by Rihanna; and "No Diggity" by R&B group Blackstreet. The film was based on the book *Pitch Perfect: The Quest for Collegiate A Cappella Glory*, which focuses on the leading collegiate a capella groups, including the Tufts Beelzebubs, where Sharon began honing his craft.

When Sharon started college at Tufts University in the late Eighties, most a cappella arrangements were sung in simple four-part harmonies, and everyone contributed to the overall melody, he said. The style limited the scope of what the Tufts Beelzebubs could perform.

"I wanted to sing rock songs to impress women — the stuff that's cool in college," Sharon said. "So that's where it started."

By adding in vocal percussion and beatboxing — a style that's highlighted in *Pitch Perfect* — Sharon said the Beelzebubs were able to tackle modern music in fourteen-part arrangements. The vocal harmonies were weaved in with textures that mimicked those created by rock instruments such as drums, guitars, and synthesizers.

"Rhythm is so integral to pop music that without vocal percussion and beatboxing, it didn't hold together," Sharon explained. "It's an overall different perspective to use voices as instruments."

Pacific Boychoir Academy has adopted this style to great effect. The after-school high-school choir, Continuum, has recorded a few of Sharon's arrangements, including the Eurythmics' "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)," a video for which has more than 4,000 views on YouTube. Continuum's nine members break the song into multiple parts, with a few singing Annie Lennox's vocals and the rest taking on the hypnotic rhythm section.

The choir also maintains a commitment to the classics. Sharon and his friends in the choral world were shocked when they learned that his son would be performing Rachmaninoff's *All Night Vigil* in its entirety.

"These kids, in addition to rigorous academics, are getting fifteen hours of music education a week and singing choral works that confound many adults," Sharon said. "The school is beyond special. The choir can leap between styles effortlessly and take you on a four-hundred-year musical journey." ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details

The Pacific Boychoir Academy Open House will take place at the Pacific Boychoir Academy (215 Ridgeway Ave., Oakland), 2 p.m., free. PacificBoychoirAcademy.org

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RICKEY VINCENT'S PARTY MUSIC

The KPFA DJ's new book chronicles how The Black Panther Party used funk to spread its revolutionary message.

By Lee Hildebrand

Rickey Vincent is a funk historian [illegible] Owens

Rickey Vincent grew up around The Black Panther Party. His mother was a member in the late Sixties, and he remembers leaders Bobby Seale and Eldridge Cleaver coming by his family's Berkeley house when he was six, as well his mom taking him along to visit Huey Newton in jail. Vincent, who still lives in Berkeley, grew up to learn much about the Panthers and other militant African-American organizations, but music — funk in particular — became his primary passion. In 1996 he wrote the book *Funk: The Music, The People, and The Rhythm of The One*, and since 1997 has hosted *The History of Funk* program Friday nights on KPFA.

His interests in politics and music intersected in 2002 when rapper Boots Riley of The Coup told him that the party had an official singing group called The Lumpen. Fellow KPFA programmer Walter Turner played him a copy of the soul quartet's only record, an ultra-rare 45 titled "Free Bobby Now" released in the summer of 1970. Sung over syncopated James Brown-inspired beats, the up-tempo tune demanded the release of Seale, who was then on trial in Connecticut for allegedly having ordered the murder of another party member.

Vincent spent the next ten years working on a book about The Lumpen's music and its connection to less politically radical R&B hits of the period such as Brown's "Say It Loud — I'm Black and I'm Proud" and Aretha Franklin's "Respect" that reflected a sense of pride that was sweeping the African-American community. Among those he interviewed were the four members of The Lumpen (William Calhoun, Clark Bailey, James Mott, and Michael Torrence), former party leaders David Hilliard and Emory Douglas, and party historian Bill Jennings.

Party Music: The Inside Story of the Black Panther's Band and How Black Power Transformed Soul Music was published on October 1. It chronicles how, during The Lumpen's one-year existence, the group delivered revolutionary messages of the Oakland-based Black Panther Party in four-part harmony at the organization's rallies, from California to Massachusetts.

Joined by Bailey and Mott at a recent reading at Underground Books in Sacramento, the 51-year-old author who currently teaches "From Bebop to Hip-Hop" and other courses at UC Berkeley played two never-released numbers by The Lumpen that had been recorded at a 1970 concert at Merritt College, where Newton and Seale had founded the party four years earlier. The fidelity was rather low, having been dubbed from a grainy tape kept in the Huey P. Newton Archives at Stanford University, but the group's messages were clear. *We want freedom to determine the destiny of our community*, lead singer Calhoun wailed, interjecting cries of *good God* between background vocal parts as bassist Thomas Wallace and drummer Minor Williams anchored the song with a groove borrowed from Brown's "There Was a Time." A version of Curtis Mayfield's 1965 freedom anthem "People Get Ready" followed, but instead of singing about not needing a ticket to board a train that's coming, as Mayfield had, The Lumpen substituted the lines *revolution's come and your only ticket is a loaded gun*.

Although some musical stars, including Jimi Hendrix, expressed support for the Panthers, others kept their distance. "You know, it's not good to fight the police: you're gonna lose," Vincent quotes Sly Stone as having said in the 2008 film *Coming Back for More*.

After the talk, when asked about Panther chants of "off the pig" and other violent slogans that The Lumpen incorporated in their songs, Vincent responded, "A lot of Panther rhetoric was specifically designed to dismantle the element of fear of the police in the community. The thinking is once you do that, then all other forms of activism are in play. That means you are more capable of organizing a picket line around a police station or a rally next to a person if you've sort of broken the spell that the badge and the uniform and the gun and the authority had. Whether it was realistic to say the system could be overturned was down the road."

The Lumpen's duties as party members also included folding and selling the weekly *Black Panther* newspaper, serving as security guards at party offices, and preparing food for the breakfast program. The quartet broke up in the spring of 1971, shortly after the acrimonious ideological split between Newton and Cleaver that led to a rapid decline in party membership.

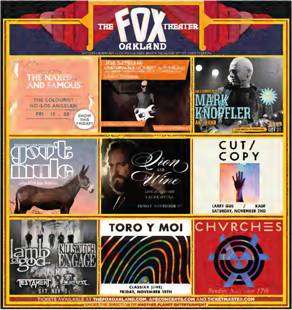
"We were not entertainers. We were party members," Mott told the audience.

Although the party dissolved more than thirty years ago, Mott and Clark both said they remain committed to the organization's principles and that many conditions in the African-American community have worsened rather than improved since their years in the party.

"The things I learned in the Sixties still apply," Clark said. "In this capitalist society there'll never be work for everybody." ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

Event Details:
Rickey Vincent will read from his book at the Oakland Main Library (125 14th St., Oakland) on Saturday Nov. 2 (2 p.m.) and at Books Inc. (1344 Park St., Alameda) on Friday Nov. 8 (7 p.m.). RickeyVincent.com/partymusic.html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CD REVIEWS

VISCERAL MUSIC

Spatial anxiety, gut resonance and a mental breakdown

Glasser

Interiors

Cameron Mesirow (aka Glasser) recorded *Interiors* in a tiny, windowless studio in Manhattan. The album was inspired, in part, by her debilitating spatial anxiety, a fear that was compounded after her move from Los Angeles. Song titles — including "Window I," "Shape," "Design," "Landscape," and "Exposure" — reference her obsession with conceptualizing space. Accordingly, *Interiors*' electronic sound is sleek and contained — a contrast to her 2010 debut *Ring*, which was wildly organic, expansive, and even quasi-mystical.

Interiors employs some of the same qualities — tribal percussion, orchestral touches, weird ephemeral sounds, and oohs and aahs — that appeared on her debut, but in a subtler way. But whereas *Ring* was languid and free-flowing, *Interiors* is somewhat punchier. There are more synths, glitchy beats, and sharper edges, but also the deep bass of dubstep. As a result, it's a more explicitly electro-pop album. One element that has remained the same, however, is Mesirow's voice, which is as sweet and captivating as ever. It's the most powerful force in her music.

Still, despite moments of punch, *Interiors* feels overall more subdued and introspective than *Ring*. On opener "Shape," Mesirow sings, *My home has no shape/Nothing to sustain me/But it keeps me safe from imagined pain.* This is clearly a more personal album. In her struggle between the inside and outside worlds, Mesirow opened herself up to her listeners, creating songs that are honest and compelling. (True Panther)

— Madeleine Key

Glasser plays The Chapel (777 Valencia St., San Francisco) on Monday, Nov. 4. 8 p.m., $18, $20.

Myra Melford

Life Carries Me This Way

While Myra Melford is identified with jazz's free avant wing, that's no reason for non-cognoscenti music-heads to fear the pianist, who currently teaches at UC Berkeley. For some listeners, "creative" can be synonymous with "forbidding" and "unlistenable," but Melford sidesteps such pitfalls. She has a potent, compelling (but not overbearing) percussive approach to the 88s, as well as a warm, if slightly oblique, lyricism. One of her biggest inspirations is the late Don Pullen, who played piano in Charles Mingus' mid-1970s bands, and she embodies a similar earthiness and explosive power.

Life Carries Me This Way is Melford's first entirely unaccompanied album, and it encompasses moods from the cerebral to the visceral to the downright pretty. "Park Mechanics" contrasts a rolling, amiable intro — slightly reminiscent of Vince Guaraldi's music for the *Peanuts* cartoons — with slyly probing, warmly introspective runs and bluesy walking. With its autumnal, ruminative feel, "Red Beach" evokes the rhapsodic rumbles and rambles of solo Keith Jarrett, albeit with fewer European classical overtones. "Piano Music" is Melford at her thorniest — she looses torrents of sharp, spiky notes in a manner recalling Pullen and McCoy Tyner, all the while maintaining a rollicking — and cathartic — momentum. The closer, "Still Life," has Melford's deep, dark notes resonating with such presence you'll feel it in your gut — it's also beautifully spacious, with heart-swelling gospel overtones.

Recommended to fans of modern keys. Crashing! (Firehouse 12)

—Mark Keresman

Myra Melford performs the world premiere of *Language of Dreams* at YBCA Forum (701 Mission St., San Francisco) Nov. 8-9. 8 p.m., $25-$35.

Castevet

Obsian

In a genre that's saturated with endless rehashing and ego-stroking noodling, New York metal trio Castevet manages to be both enthusiastically innovative, but not self-consciously so, and listenable. Its new album, *Obsian*, is a dark exploration of shifting rhythms and grooves, guided roughly by black metal but not beholden to the elements usually associated with that style. Like its proggy/experimental metal contemporaries, such as Enslaved, Intronaut, Krallice, and Tombs, Castevet eludes any attempt to be held down structurally, musically, or otherwise. The results are superb.

"The Tower" blasts off with a wall of dissonant guitar chords and double-bass drumming, but the parts change, serpentine-like; motifs shift shape and are revisited. Dense, frantic riffing gives way to arpeggios and, eventually, open space. "Cavernous" rumbles and trudges its way through its opening minutes, but a gleam of bright guitar breaks through. More arpeggios lay a bleak-yet-beautiful foundation and the drums shift to halftime; it culminates in a semi-jazzy take on the theme, and the energy returns to its frenzied beginnings. The highlight of the album is "As Fathomed by Beggars and Victims," whose sinister-sounding acoustic guitar riff is laid over a roiling foundation and guitarist/vocalist Andrew Hock's depraved howl. The melody lodges itself into your head and won't quit.

Castevet's record label describes *Obsian* as "the soundtrack to your ultimate mental breakdown," but that's not giving this release enough credit: The emotions it conjures are more varied than disorienting. Only a band this surefooted could pull it off. (Profound Lore)

—Kathleen Richards

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PICKS

Clipd Beaks

A few years ago, Clipd Beaks was a band most associated with a loud, chaotic, irreverent spirit and an equally unharnessed personality. In interviews members talked (jokingly, we presume) about performing oral sex in American Apparel stockrooms and (not jokingly) about witnessing a crackhead trying to use the bathroom on stage during one of their performances. But if the Oakland band's latest, *Lit. Last Offerings*, is any indication, it's toned things down a bit — or at least learned when to scale back and when to go full blast. "Womb to Tomb" perfectly exploits the soft-loud dynamic within its psychedelic haze, but at base it's a well-crafted pop song. "I'm really proud of what we've done and I think people would respond to the record," wrote vocalist Nick Barbeln in an email to the *Express* a few weeks ago. The ten-year-old band will celebrate the release of its limited-edition cassette this week at The Night Light (311 Broadway, Oakland), with Elephant in Castle, Hiss & Hum, and Safe Wood. — *Kathleen Richards*

Friday, Oct. 25, 9 p.m., $7. TheNightLightOakland.com

Earl Sweatshirt

Earl Sweatshirt

Earl Sweatshirt is something of a prodigy. He shot to fame at age sixteen for his skillful rhyming, which attracted even more attention than the shocking antics and violent and homophobic lyrics of Odd Future, the Los Angeles-based collective he was a member of. He self-released a mixtape, *Earl*, before disappearing from the public eye — his mother sent him to a school for at-risk boys in Samoa. Now nineteen years old, Sweatshirt released his first full-length album earlier this year to wide critical and commercial acclaim, which was well deserved. *Doris* is brilliant. With a slow drawl and incredible sense of rhyme, Sweatshirt spits darkly funny, wickedly smart, relatable (to twentysomethings, anyway), emotionally and mentally insightful lyrics. Never sounding as if he's exerting much energy, Sweatshirt raps in a measured, densely layered way with double-entendres aplenty about such topics as his absentee father who's a South African poet. Vince Staples, another young Southern California rapper, will join Sweatshirt when he performs at Slim's (333 11th St., San Francisco). — *Madeleine Key*

Monday, Oct. 28, 9 p.m., $20. SlimsPresents.com

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11 p.m., $[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $10, $15

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible]

SATURDAY 26

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible]

Classical & Opera

[illegible]

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible]

Soul, & Pop

[illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible]

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera presents: [illegible]
San Francisco Symphony performs [illegible] Concerto No. 2, [illegible] Legends for Orchestra, Nos. 2, 6, and 10, and Lutoslawski's [illegible] Davies Symphony Hall, 8 p.m., $[illegible]

Gospel & Vocal

[illegible]

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible]

Rock & Pop

[illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible]

DeliRadio.com
PRESENTS
THURSDAY 11·7
RUBBLEBUCKET
DEEJAY SAURUS
FRIDAY 11·8
THE PIMPS OF JOYTIME
MONOPHONICS
DJ PLATURN
THE NEW PARISH
579 18TH ST OAKLAND
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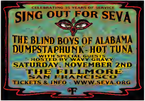
DOORS 8PM SHOW 9PM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THU 10.24 DREAM POP AND FOLK-ROCK
8:00PM ADV TIX
MINOR BIRDS
LADY LAZARUS
ANTONETTE GOROCH

FRI 10.25 LATIN FUSION, INDIE-FOLK & HIGH ENERGY FUNKY ROCK
8:00PM
SANG MATIZ
(NEW SINGLE RELEASE)
THE **EMILY ANNE BAND**
MELANIE IDA CHOPKO

SAT 10.26 8:00PM
IRISH & PUB ROCK / ADV TIX

THE SHAMS EIRE
McCRAE'S BATTALION
THE **GUVERNMENT**

SUN 10.27 GARAGE & POP-PUNK
4:00PM ALL AGES
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GEMI AND THE GODS

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SELECTOR ALL-STARS 8PM
THURSDAY OCT 24
Finally! The Selector DJs have gotten it together and will be rocking the decks on the same night! Toph One, DJ ffloo DJ Lady Ryan, and DJ Delon will be rotating on and off the decks, flexing their distinct styles that earn them the title of Selector.

FRIDAY OCT 25
STEVEN EMERSON 8PM
Berkeley based balladeer Steven Emerson is emerging from self-imposed obscurity with a creative resurgence that includes a new album Song of Love. Citing Leonard Cohen as a primary inspiration, his 2000 CD Set in Motion is a blend of '60s cool jazz and '70s soul that received plaudits, including "a delicate wash of strings and understated female backing vocals that recalls the early '70s soul of Al Green. It is Emerson's voice that makes the music intimate and inescapable."
StevenEmerson.com

JUMP OFF W/ DJ FFLOOD 9PM

DAVID JEFFREY'S FOURTET 9PM
SATURDAY OCT 26
Founded by East Bay bassist David Jeffrey, The Fourtet, is an ongoing, ever-evolving jazz project featuring some of the areas up-and-coming young jazz musicians alongside veteran players in a quartet setting.
JazzFourtet.com

WOOD FIRED PIZZA 33 BEERS ON TAP

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UPCOMING SHOWS

FRI 10/25 & SAT 10/26
GEORGE PORTER JR.
HUMMIN PARDNERS KAITY & FRIENDS FEAT. MEMBERS OF VINYL (FRI)
SWOOP UNIT (SAT)

WED 10/23
LEAGUES
THE [illegible]

THU 10/24
[illegible] PRESENTS
ANNIE GIRL & THE FLIGHT
[illegible]

THU 10/31
[illegible] PRESENTS
SOUL DISCIPLZ
[illegible] BROTHERS, EXTRA ORDINARY ASTRONAUTS

FRI 11/01
SATAN'S PILGRIMS
THE [illegible], THE [illegible]

SAT 11/02
[illegible]
TRACORUM
[illegible], THE SLEEPING GIANTS

SUN 11/03
FRED FRITH TRIO
[illegible]

MON 11/04
[illegible]
SOCIAL STUDIES
UPSTAIRS [illegible] (EP RELEASE), [illegible]

Sponsored by: THUMER PILS

UPCOMING SHOWS

THE NEW PARISH

FRIDAY 11/01
TOTAL TRASH HALLOWEEN BASH FEATURING THE SONICS BOOM
PHANTOM SURFERS, THE LEGENDARY STARDUST COWBOY, HAROLD RAY LIVE IN CONCERT, LARRY & THE ANGRIEST GENERATION, THE CAMONKS

FRIDAY 10/25
[illegible] PRESENTS
GILBERE FORTE, MYLO
[illegible]

TUESDAY 10/29
[illegible] PRESENTS
FLATBUSH ZOMBIES
[illegible]

WEDNESDAY 10/30
[illegible] PRESENT
MICHAL MENERT
[illegible]

THURSDAY 10/31
[illegible] PRESENT
DEATH
[illegible]

WEDNESDAY 11/06
BUSDRIVER
[illegible]

THURSDAY 11/07
[illegible] PRESENTS
NURDLEBUCKET
[illegible]

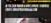
FRIDAY 11/08
[illegible] PRESENTS
THE PIMPS OF JOYTIME
[illegible]

THURSDAY 11/14
HOSTED BY [illegible]
LOS RAKAS
[illegible]

FRIDAY 11/22
[illegible] PRESENTS
FOXES (UK)
[illegible]

TUESDAY 11/26
[illegible] PRESENTS
MELLOWHIGH
FEAT. [illegible] OF ODD FUTURE

MONDAY 1[illegible]
J BOOG



AT THE NEW PARISH & [illegible] SCHEDULE
[illegible]

THURSDAY 11/14
HOSTED BY [illegible]
LYNX, LILA ROSE
[illegible]

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Swoop Unit, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m., $20, $25
Rapt w/ The Vanishers, Boom Boom Room, 9 p.m., $12-$15

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible] w/ Jay and Madness, The Independent, 9 p.m., $20
[illegible] Mission Arts [illegible] w/ Culture Clash, [illegible], Los Tambores de la Salsa, Alejandro Murguía and Dr. Loco, [illegible], Carlos Rodriguez, [illegible] and many more, Brava Theater, [illegible] p.m., $15-$35

SUNDAY 27

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], 3 p.m., $15-$20
Sunday Morning Blues BBQ and [illegible] Café [illegible], 11 a.m., [illegible]

Classical & Opera

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], Creative Center for Music in the Community, 3 p.m., $15-$20

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 8 p.m., $10-$20

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Jazz and [illegible] Night, [illegible], 6-10 p.m., free
[illegible] High Street Station Café, 3 p.m., free
John [illegible] Café, 5 p.m., [illegible]
Lost Planet [illegible], 8 p.m., $10
[illegible], 4:30 p.m., $15-$17 [illegible]

Rock & Pop

[illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 5:30 p.m., $7-$10
[illegible] Cowper's Saloon and Grill, 8 p.m., [illegible]
Bridge School Benefit Concert w/ Neil Young, Nash & Young, Booker T., Jack Johnson, Tom Waits, Queens of the Stone Age, My Morning Jacket, [illegible], [illegible] and Jerry Lewis, Shoreline Amphitheatre, 2 p.m., $35-$150
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], 7 p.m., [illegible]
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible], 9 p.m., $5
[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Night Light, 6 p.m., $5
[illegible], 7:30 p.m., sold out
Marty's [illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 8 p.m., $14.50-$16.50
[illegible], Monaghan's on the Hill, 6 p.m., [illegible]
[illegible] and the [illegible], 4 p.m., [illegible]
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], 8 p.m., $12
[illegible], 7 p.m., $10

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible], La Peña Cultural Center, 7 p.m., $15, $20
[illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 3 p.m., [illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

4th Sunday [illegible], 7 p.m., $5-$10
[illegible], 8 p.m., [illegible]
[illegible], 7 & 9 p.m., $15
[illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 p.m., [illegible]

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera presents: Giuseppe Verdi's Falstaff w/ [illegible] conducting, War Memorial Opera House, 2 p.m., $23-$312

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Independent, 8 p.m., $10-$20
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], The Lab, [illegible]

Gospel & Vocal

[illegible], 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., [illegible]

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

VENUE DIRECTORY

EAST BAY

1-2-3-4 Go! Records 423 40th St., Oakland, 510-985-0325
25th [illegible] Collective 477 25th St., Oakland, 510-364-2148
57th [illegible] Art Gallery 5701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
924 Gilman 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-525-9926
Actual Café 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-653-8080
[illegible] 492 9th St., Lower Foods, Oakland, 510-444-2372
Albatross [illegible] 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-2473
The Alley 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-8505
Ashkenaz Music 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5054
Art [illegible] Gallery & [illegible] 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-472-3170
[illegible] 5317 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] Café 1429 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-1440
The Baltic 135 Park Pl., Point Richmond, 510-237-1000
[illegible] and Bar 810 12th St., Oakland, 510-444-2780
Frank Bette Center for the Arts 1601 Lincoln St., Alameda, 510-523-6957
The Bistro 1001 B St., Hayward, 510-886-8525
Brazil [illegible] 1421 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-763-7711
[illegible] 2630 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8296
Club 23 2513 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 630 3rd St., Oakland, 510-465-0105
Coffee Mill 3363 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4224
[illegible] Lounge 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-2000
The Continental Club 1658 12th St., Oakland, 510-473-2663
[illegible] 3614 [illegible] Way, South Richmond, 510-215-8000
[illegible] 816 19th St., Oakland, 510-986-0174
[illegible] Hall 2305 [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-286-8186
[illegible] Lounge 3065 Shoreline Ave., Oakland, 510-336-4811
[illegible] Mile High Club 3400 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland, 510-594-0668
[illegible] Art Bar and Lounge 10 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-832-6400
[illegible] & [illegible] Barbecue 120 Rebele Way, Oakland, 510-[illegible]
First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-3696
[illegible] Lounge 3384 [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-748-0332
Fox Oakland 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 800-745-3000
Freight & Salvage 2020 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-644-2020
[illegible] Greek Theatre 2001 Gayley Rd., Berkeley, 510-642-0988
Hertz Hall UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Berkeley, 510-642-0988
High Street Station 1303 High St., Alameda, 510-995-0040
Mixed Paradise Club 1438 Webster St., Alameda, 510-865-2829
Ivy Room 860 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-524-5888
Jazzschool 2087 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-845-5373
[illegible] Community Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-0237
John Patrick's 1815 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-6195
Julia's Coffee & The Garden 1223 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-2085
Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277
[illegible] 532 2nd St., Oakland, 510-444-8801
[illegible] Lucky Lounge 3550 [illegible] Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568
Laney College [illegible] 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-464-3543
[illegible] 1517 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-834-1933
[illegible] Saloon 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland
[illegible] Lounge 2320 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-523-4700
Lounge 3411 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-531-3411
[illegible] Taproom & Lounge 2221 Rebele Way, Oakland, 510-451-4677
[illegible] 5300 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge 2900 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2082
New Parkway [illegible] 1800 Webster St., Oakland, 510-211-7768
The New Parish 579 18th St., Oakland, 510-444-7474
The Night Light 311 Broadway, Oakland, 510-292-6413
Oakland Metro Operahouse 630 3rd St., Oakland, 510-763-1146
ORACLE Arena 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland, 510-569-2121
Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland, 510-465-6400
[illegible] Piano Company 1729 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-647-8888
[illegible] Light Rooftop 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland, 510-536-2050
[illegible] 455 13th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] Books 2333 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-865-5060
[illegible] Rock Ready 1745 San Pablo Ave., Oakland
[illegible] Roadhouse 1700 [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-337-0190
Ruby Room 132 14th St., Oakland, 510-444-7224
[illegible] 42011 [illegible] Rd., Fremont, 510-979-0477
[illegible] Lounge 341 13th St., Oakland, 510-839-1919
Shoreline Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View, 650-967-3000
[illegible] 2306 [illegible] Rd., [illegible], 925-[illegible]
[illegible] 2424 [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-522-1300
[illegible] 2518 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082
[illegible] 3320 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6698
[illegible] Art [illegible] 2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-[illegible]
Uptown 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-8100
Vinyl at [illegible] 411 14th St., Oakland, 510-379-8614
Wheeler Auditorium UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-643-4290
White Horse Inn 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3820
Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200
Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-9988

Rotten Schmitt and Django All-Stars w/ John Jorgenson, [illegible] Center, 4:30 p.m., [illegible]

CC5 49713 m, C&C

Rock & Pop

The Ocean Blue w/ The Fringe Rock and Ed Rutherford [illegible], [illegible] of the Hill, 8 p.m., $12, $15

The Deadly Gentlemen and La Pia [illegible] Rotten w/ [illegible], Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $7

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible], 8 p.m., $6

Porphyry w/ [illegible], [illegible] Lounge, 7 p.m., $10, $12

Victory and [illegible] w/ [illegible] and Helen [illegible], [illegible], 8:30 p.m., $6

[illegible] acoustic set, [illegible], 7:30 p.m., $8

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

J. Cole w/ Wale, The Warfield, 7:30 p.m., $48.50-$65

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $15

[illegible] and [illegible] w/ [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $34, $50

Bottom of the [illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], Boom Boom Room, 8 p.m., and

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 7 p.m., $38, $40

MONDAY 28

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] Freight & Salvage, [illegible], 8 p.m., $16.50, $18.50

[illegible] [illegible] All-Stars [illegible], 8 p.m., $10

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] A Love [illegible], 8 p.m., $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] Fox Theater, 7:30 p.m., $65.95-$125.95

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], The Night Light, 8:30 p.m., $7

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 p.m., $15

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Yiddish Song Mothers with the [illegible] [illegible] Non-Jewish Community [illegible] of the East Bay, Berkeley [illegible], 8 p.m., $15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] with the Blue w/ The Fourth and King and [illegible], 7 p.m., $5, $3 with costume

The [illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m., and

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m., $35, $38

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Le Jazz Hot Le Colonial, 7 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible] Biscuits & Blues, 7:30 p.m., $12

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., sold out

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Earl Sweatshirt w/ Vince Staples, Slim's, 8 p.m., $21

J. Cole w/ Wale, The Warfield, 7:30 p.m., $48.50-$65

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $30 standing, $40 seated

TUESDAY 29

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] [illegible], 8:30 p.m., $30

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] Trio Caffe [illegible], 7:30-9:30 p.m., free

Red Dibble dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Staples, [illegible] and [illegible], The Night Light, 8 p.m., $6

[illegible] 35th Birthday and Halloween Bash w/ [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], 8 p.m., $5

[illegible] w/ St. Lucia and [illegible] Fox Theater, 7:30 p.m., $[illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $15

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible] The Layover, 10 p.m., TBA

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Independent, 8 p.m., $12, $14

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Social House, 8 p.m., free

[illegible] and [illegible], 8 p.m., free

The [illegible] [illegible] & Blues, 7 & 9 p.m., $15

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] [illegible] Cafe, 8:30 p.m., and

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $25

The [illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., and

The [illegible] [illegible] 345 [illegible], 8:30 p.m., $20

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 8:30 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and the [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 8 p.m., $8

The [illegible] w/ [illegible] and The [illegible], Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $8

[illegible] Slim's, 7:30 p.m., $30

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], 8 p.m., $12

[illegible] Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $8

The [illegible] w/ [illegible], and the [illegible] Hotel, [illegible], 8 p.m., $7

WEDNESDAY 30

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible], and [illegible], Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20.50, $22.50

[illegible] [illegible], 8:30 p.m., $10

Classical & Opera

[illegible] [illegible] Cafe, 7 p.m., $5-$20

Gospel & Vocal

The [illegible] Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $35

[illegible] Academy [illegible] Auditions and [illegible] [illegible] Academy, 8 p.m., and

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible], 8:30 p.m., and

[illegible] [illegible] Grill, 7:30 p.m., free

[illegible] and friends The [illegible] Arts Center, 7 p.m., free

Red Dibble dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The [illegible], and [illegible], The Night Light, 8 p.m., $7

[illegible] w/ The [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], 8 p.m., $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], The [illegible], 8 p.m.

[illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., $12

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible] with [illegible], [illegible] Lounge, 7:30 p.m., and

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $8, $10

The [illegible] Biscuits & Blues, 7 & 9 p.m., $25

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera presents Giuseppe Verdi's Falstaff w/ [illegible], War Memorial Opera House, 7:30 p.m., $23-$302

San Francisco Symphony performs Psycho live with the film, w/ [illegible] conducting, Davies Symphony Hall, 8 p.m., $43-$150

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] / The [illegible] w/ [illegible], and [illegible], [illegible], 8:30 p.m., $2

Rock & Pop

The [illegible] w/ [illegible] Young, The Independent, 8 p.m., $10

The [illegible] w/ [illegible] and The [illegible], [illegible], 8 p.m., $6, $10

[illegible] of the Network [illegible] w/ [illegible] Brothers, [illegible], Network Tavern, 8:30 p.m., $6

The [illegible] and The [illegible], Boom Boom Room, 8:30 p.m., $8

[illegible] Milk Bar, 8 p.m., $7

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], Rickshaw Stop, 8 p.m., $13, $15

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $15, $20

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], and The [illegible], 8:30 p.m., and w/ [illegible] $7

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 8 p.m., $8

[illegible] w/ The [illegible] and [illegible], The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m., $22.50, $25

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[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 8 p.m., $23-$27

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and The [illegible], [illegible], 8 p.m., $8

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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 24

EAST BAY

Gentle Voodoo w/ DJs [illegible], The Layover, 10 p.m., free

Bass & [illegible] happy hour, The Legionnaire Saloon, 8:30 p.m., free

Every Cent Lounge 3411, 9 p.m., free

DJ & spinning Cragan's Sports Bar & Grill, 10 p.m., free

DJ Kapu vs [illegible] w/ a live artist [illegible], The Layover, 9 p.m.

DJ Night DJs spinning Radiodelic pop, mind-blowing rock, and dance/hip-hop, Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ Marc [illegible] spinning [illegible] soul, and [illegible], The Legionnaire Saloon, 9:30 p.m., [illegible]

Golden Era Thursdays / [illegible] the Vinyl Archaeologist and guest DJs, Vinyl [illegible], 10 p.m., free [illegible]

The Jump Off: Hip-Hop w/ [illegible] spinning [illegible], Club 21, 9 p.m., $8-$15

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] California Academy of Sciences, [illegible] p.m., $12

[illegible]

FRIDAY 25

EAST BAY

[illegible]

DJ & spinning Cragan's Sports Bar & Grill

[illegible] p.m., $5

DJ Dan Gabus, The Layover, 9 p.m., free

DJ Night DJs spinning Radiodelic pop, mind-blowing rock, and dance/hip-hop, Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] The Layover, [illegible] p.m., [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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SAN FRANCISCO

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[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] The Edge [illegible]

SATURDAY 26

EAST BAY

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

DJ & Dancing Cragan's Sports Bar & Grill, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

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[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Ghost Ship: The Abyss w/ DJs [illegible] Pleasuremaker, Matt Haze, Zach Moore, [illegible], Pier 70, Building 12, [illegible] p.m., $90

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

SUNDAY 27

EAST BAY

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

MONDAY 28

EAST BAY

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

TUESDAY 29

EAST BAY

DJ Dalo The Legionnaire Saloon, [illegible] p.m., free

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

WEDNESDAY 30

EAST BAY

[illegible] Luka's Taproom & Lounge, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

PICK

Ghost Ship: The Abyss

If you're looking to get weird and get down, you'll want to check out this weekend's *Ghost Ship: The Abyss*, an extravagant Halloween-themed rave that is put on by the same Bay Area groups that organize art cars and installations at Burning Man. Now in its sixth year, Ghost Ship has relocated from Treasure Island to a new location (Pier 70, Building 12, 420 22nd St., San Francisco) and will feature popular local DJs instead of a main headlining act. Four stages will showcase a range of styles by DJs such as Pleasuremaker and Senor Oz, the hosts of the Thursday night Afrolicious party at the Elbo Room; Matt Haze, who spins styles such as Israeli dancehall and Ukrainian hip-hop; and Zach Moore, a house-music fiend. Partygoers come dressed in outlandish, elaborate costumes and there are also one-night-only art installations on display: Past years have included a Victorian-era-style ghost ship, an alien space craft, and a Viking ship — all built to scale. Come for the music, stay for the massive art party. People will be raging long after 3 a.m. — *Madeline Key*

Saturday Oct. 26, 9 p.m., $90. GhostShipHalloween.com

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SAVAGE LOVE

LOTION UP

Stating the obvious, dealing with a suicidal ex, and deflecting questions about porn preferences.

By Dan Savage

My girlfriend always responds positively when I initiate sex with her, but she hardly ever initiates sex with me. I'm a no-beat-around-the-bush kind of guy, but I realize that this can be a sensitive topic, and I don't want to scare her by saying "Please initiate sex more often!" So I do small things to cue her and let her know that I want her to initiate. I will lotion up in front of her after we shower. Or I'll say something like "I wanted to fuck last night — maybe you can wear one of your sexy bras and things one day soon?" But it hasn't worked. The only time she'll initiate is if I haven't initiated for a while and she's sexually frustrated. But that can take days!

Girlfriend Rarely Initiates Naked Dance

Wow, GRIND, your girlfriend is pretty fucking dense. I'm surprised she remembers to breathe in her sleep.

I mean, she actually heard you say, "I wanted to fuck last night — maybe you can wear one of your sexy bras and things one day soon?" and somehow didn't realize that what you meant was "Please initiate sex more often." And she's seen you smearing lotion on yourself after showering and somehow didn't realize that you wanted her to start initiating sex once in a while. Amazing. A boyfriend smearing lotion on himself — who doesn't know what that means?

Um. Yeah. No.

Sorry, GRIND, but you're the dense one in this relationship. You want your girlfriend to initiate sex more often? Tell her you want her to initiate sex more often. Trust me, GRIND, that straightforward request will display more sensitivity to your girlfriend's feelings — and will be less crazy-making — than a potentially confidence-shredding statement like "Hey, I wanted to fuck you last night but you were wearing the wrong panties," or the conspicuous application of skin moisturizer.

But even if you're straight with her, GRIND, things are unlikely to change. She initiates when she's horny/sexually frustrated, but she obviously has a lower libido than you do and gets horny/sexually frustrated at intervals that leave you frustrated. Your desire for her cranks her up, so she's good to go when you initiate. But she's satisfied with less sex — she has a lower libido — and is unlikely to feel the urge to initiate as often as you would like her to regardless.

I'm a 21-year-old female college student going to school on the East Coast. Two days ago, I broke up with my manipulative, controlling, insecure, long-distance boyfriend of one year. I truly care for this man, but I need to live my life the way I want to, and that wasn't possible in this relationship. The problem is, he's been leaving voice mails, texting, and e-mailing me threatening suicide. I've told his mother about this, but I don't think she's taking it seriously. I feel horrible, but I don't want to talk to him because I refuse to get sucked back into his problems. How can I deal with this serious threat without getting personally involved?

Single And Worried

Your ex-boyfriend's mom presumably knows her son better than you do, SAW, and she isn't taking his threats seriously. So it's possible that he has a long history of manipulating people with idle suicide threats, essentially taking himself hostage to get what he wants. But if you're worried — maybe his mother is neglectful and/or nuts — you might want to listen to Episode 364 of the Savage Lovecast (you can find that episode, and 363 others, at SavageLovecast.com). I took a question from a man whose girlfriend threatened suicide when he tried to dump her. Jill Harkavy-Friedman of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention had some excellent advice for him. Summing it up: Alert his friends and relatives, and pass the AFSP's hotline number (1-800-273-TALK) on to them and on to the person making the threat. I would add: Don't respond to his texts or voice mails, consider blocking his number, and forward any truly worrying e-mails to his mother.

My girlfriend snooped on my browser history the other day specifically to see what porn I had been looking at. I've told her I look at porn a few times a week, and she said she didn't mind. She asked me what type of stuff I usually look at, and I was mostly honest. My viewing habits are pretty vanilla except for BBW porn. It's not my go-to, but it was what she found in my browser history the day she snooped. She had some issues, and I don't know how to address them. I'm not more attracted to overweight women than other women, but sometimes that type just does it for me. Compounding this, my girlfriend is overweight — not on par with the women in the videos I watched — and now she's worried that her weight is the only reason I'm attracted to her. It's not! How can I explain this to her and put her mind at ease?

Busted Boyfriend Worries

If you looked only at porn that featured conventionally attractive women — all those skinny bitches — your girlfriend would be worried that you're not attracted to her because of her size. But she caught you looking at BBW porn, and now she's worried that her size is the only reason you're attracted to her.

I don't think you can win this one, BBW, but you can try saying this to her: "I like women of all shapes and sizes, honey, including yours — as you can clearly see if you look at all the porn sites I've visited, instead of just obsessing about that particular one." I don't think it'll do much good, because your girlfriend probably doesn't want you looking at porn at all — saying it's okay, snooping, and grilling aren't signs of "okay with porn." So use private browsing, clear your browser history, or watch porn on a secure computer in a secret, undisclosed location.

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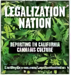
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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 1381574-31 APN: 049-0710-016 TRA: 17046 LOAN NO: Xxxxxx1124 REF: Graden, L IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED October 31, 2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On November 13, 2013, at 12:00pm, Cal-western Reconveyance Llc, as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded November 09, 2006, as Inst. No. 2006419424 in book XX, page XX of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, executed by L L Graden, An Unmarried Man, will sell at public auction to highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the financial code and authorized to do business in this state: At the steps to the entrance of the county courthouse 1225 Fallon Street Oakland, California, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: Parcel one: beginning at a point on the southern line of 52nd street, distant thereon easterly, 206 feet from the point of intersection, more completely described in attached exhibit a. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 856-858-860 52nd St Aka 856 52nd St. Emeryville CA 94608-3304 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be held, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: $527,354.45. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (619)590-1221 or visit the internet website www.dlppllc.com, using the file number assigned to this case 1381574-31. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web Site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. For sales information:(619)590-1221. Cal-Western Reconveyance LLC, 525 East Main Street, P.O. Box 22004, El Cajon, CA 92022-9004 Dated: October 09, 2013. (DLPP-435942 10/23/13, 10/30/13, 11/06/13)

APN: 049-1528-017 Trustee Sale No. 1369417-1 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 3/16/2004. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 11/5/2013 at 12:00 PM, Clear Recon Corp., as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 3/24/2004 as Instrument No. 2004123938 in Book XX, Page XX, of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of CALIFORNIA executed by: CELESTE M BURROWS, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, SAVINGS ASSOCIATION, OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE: At the Fallon St. emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St., Oakland, CA 94612 all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: COMPLETELY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 5 COMMODORE DRIVE #B717 EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be held, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition, or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: $44,978.96 If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (714) 573-1965 or visit this Internet Web site WWW.PRIORITYPOSTING.COM, using the file number assigned to this case 1369417-1. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR SALES INFORMATION: (714) 573-1965 Date: 10/1/2013 Clear Recon Corp. Authorized Signature Clear Recon Corp. 4375 Jutland Drive Suite 200 San Diego, California 92117 866-931-0036 P1063382 10/16, 10/23, 10/30/2013

NOTICE OF HEARING TO RENEW RESTRAINING ORDER.

NAME OF PROTECTED PERSON

Allison Noelle Niehaus

PROTECTED PERSONS ATTORNEY IN THE CASE

Stacy Speiller SBN 232667

518 Thirteenth Street, Modesto, California 95354

Telephone 209-526-1533

Fax 209 526-1711

NAME OF RESTRAINED PERSON

Martin Niehaus

DESCRIPTION OF RESTRAINED PERSON

Sex Male

Height 6 1

Weight 200

Hair Color Blonde

Eye Color Blue

Race White

Age 43

DOB 5/28/1969

RELATIONSHIP TO PROTECTED PERSON

Former Spouse

COURT HEARING

The restraining order stays in effect until the hearing date of December 5 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in Department 14 located at 800 Eleventh Street, Modesto California 95354

TO THE RESTRAINING PERSON

At the hearing, the judge can renew the current restraining order for another five years or permanently. Before the hearing, you can file a response on form DV 720 Response to Request to Renew Restraining Order. You must continue to obey the current restraining orders until the hearing. At the hearing you can tell the judge why you agree or disagree with the request to renew the orders. If the restraining orders are renewed, you must obey the orders even if you do not attend the hearing.

SERVICE AND RESPONSE

Court allows service by Publication Pursuant to Statute. Case to be set 50-70 days out to allow publication.

TO THE RESTRAINED PERSON

If you want to respond in writing to the request to renew the restraining order fill out for DV 720 Response to Request to Renew Restraining Order. File the original with the court and have someone 18 or over - not you - mail a copy of it to the protected person before the hearing. Also file for DV-250, Proof of Service by Mail, with the court before the hearing. Bring a copy of Form DV 250, Proof of Service by mail to the court hearing

10/16, 10/23 10/30 11/6

PETITION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER CASE NO. 451907

TO: ALL PERSONS CLAIMING ANY INTEREST IN THE ASSETS AS FOLLOWS:

- Bank of America account number 01491-04411 and any other related accounts
- All accounts held at First United Services Credit Union for member number 7 [illegible]
- Any other accounts and safety deposit boxes in existence at the time of this order in any bank or financial institution in the name of LUBOS DOBECKY whether held alone or jointly with another
- Any cash or other assets found in the home of LUBOS DOBECKY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on September 25, 2013, pursuant to Penal Code section 186.11, a Petition for Temporary Restraining Order was filed in Alameda County Superior Court case number 451907 and an order to show cause and temporary restraining order was issued freezing the above-mentioned property.

If you wish to contest this matter, you have thirty (30) days from the date of the first publication of this notice, or thirty (30) days from receipt of actual notice, to file a verified (under penalty of perjury) claim for this property with the Clerk of the Superior Court of Alameda at the Hayward Hall of Justice, Criminal Division, located at 24405 Amador Street, Hayward, California, 94544. Pursuant to Penal Code section 186.11(e)(6), your verified claim should state the amount and nature of your interest in the property or asset and should be filed with the Alameda County Superior Court in Hayward in Criminal Docket Number 451907. You must serve a copy of your verified claim on the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, c/o DDA Erin Loback, 7677 Oakport Street, Suite 650, Oakland, CA 94621

You have the right to have the Court conduct an order-to-show-cause hearing within 10 days of the date on which he serves a copy of the verified claim on the District Attorney. Upon a showing of good cause, you can have the hearing within 2 days of service on the District Attorney. Failure to file a timely verified claim as instructed above may result in the forfeiture of the above-described property toward victim restitution. 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30

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